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LD231430 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Gulf Shipping—Tehran radio claimed that the Iranian Navy fired on four U.S. helicopters which were attempting to prevent the Iranians searching a Greek merchant ship 21 November. The "decisive action" by Iranian personnel forced the helicopters to "flee," the radio maintained, and the Iranians were able to intercept the ship *Jimilta* and escort it to a southern Iranian port. More details on the alleged incident were given by the commander of the Iranian Navy, who stated that the Iranian gunfire "dispersed" the helicopters "after 2 hours," according to IRNA. Commenting on the "U.S. provocative action" in remarks cited by Tehran radio, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said it is not Iran's policy to cause a clash as its policy is "defensive," but if "arrogance" seeks to violate Iran's rights, "it will receive a stronger answer."

The Iranian announcements on this issue followed an AFP report that the *Jimilta* issued a distress signal 21 November saying it had been attacked near Farsi Island. The Greek freighter was hit by machinegun fire, but damage was not serious, according to Athens radio. Another Greek vessel was attacked by an Iranian gunboat in the southern Gulf the following morning, the radio revealed, noting that there were no casualties and damage was light. Iranian speedboats attacked two more ships near the Strait of Hormuz the following morning, Radio Monte Carlo announced. The victims were a Panamanian-flagged container ship and a Romanian cargo vessel. Three members of the Romananian vessel were wounded and taken to a UAE hospital.

As for Iraqi activity, a military spokesman cited by Baghdad radio announced that Iraqi aircraft dealt an "accurate and effective hit" to a large maritime target off the Iranian coast 21 November. Iraq's raid on a similar target the previous day hit a tugboat near Khark Island, AFP disclosed. One Filipino sailor was killed and five were injured, the agency said.

Iranian Attacks—Tehran radio and IRNA reported Iranian successes in three new offensives in northern Iraq, one in the Hajj 'Umran area of Irbil Province, another in the Mawat area of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, and a third deep inside Iraq near Dahuk. A radio report on the "Nasr-9" operation in the Hajj 'Umran sector on 23 November claimed that Iranian forces captured 4 "strategic" heights, "liberated" over 10 sq km of Iraqi territory, killed 900 Iraqi soldiers, and wounded 2,000 others. Earlier, military communiques on the "Nasr-8" operations near Mawat asserted that Iranian forces killed or wounded over 2,800 Iraqis, captured 235, and repulsed 4 Iraqi counteroffensives. The Iranians captured 8 strategic heights, 4 villages, and 30 sq km of Iraqi territory in the Mawat area, a communique said. Captured equipment reportedly included a SAM-2 missile pad. As for the "Zafar-4" offensive in Dahuk, a military statement carried by the radio asserted that Iranian commandos and Iraqi Kurdish rebels killed or wounded over 100 Iraqi soldiers in a surprise attack. Power installations and factories near Dahuk were damaged and the main highway to Turkey was closed for up to 9 hours, the statement added.

Without referring to the Iranian claims, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio 22 November stated that Iraq's I Army Corps in the northern sector dealt "effective blows to enemy troop concentrations."

GCC Affairs

The GCC defense ministers decided to enhance cooperation and step up coordination against the "escalation of tension and the increase of dangers" to regional and world security and stability, according to a 22 November statement carried by WAKH. The statement, issued at the end of a 2-day meeting in Abu Dhabi, stressed the need to "demonstrate both unified determination and cohesive resolution" in confronting threats to any GCC country. In remarks to KUNA 21 November, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Salim al-Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah stressed the meeting's "special importance" in light of Iranian attacks on shipping and noted that "Kuwaiti ideas" would be discussed.

Saudi Arabia

An official source cited by SPA denied a *Jane's Defence Weekly* report that the French company Dassault-Breguet has hired a Saudi adviser to help sell Mirage-4000 aircraft to the Kingdom. There are "no unofficial advisors" at King Fahd's court, the source stressed, and Saudi Arabia has concluded no contract with Dassault-Breguet to buy Mirage aircraft or any other equipment. Reaffirming the Kingdom's "absolute prohibition of any mediation between itself and arms companies," the source stressed that Saudi Arabia's arms purchases are done "directly with the arms source without the interference of any middlemen."

Syria-Iraq

A Syrian trade delegation left for Baghdad over the weekend, Amman television reported, noting the delegation leader's statement that the talks with the Iraqis will cover ways to resume trade relations. A senior Jordanian official commented that the Syrian-iraqi reconciliation is "progressing as planned," the *Jordan Times* disclosed in a related report.

Lebanon

In remarks carried by Voice of Lebanon radio 21 November, the deputy chief of the Lebanese Forces (LF) security department claimed that Syria was behind the recent attempt to detonate bombs in East Beirut, asserting that this is "the Syrian response which we have gotten accustomed to." He also said the LF have arrested members of three Syrian-sponsored "subversive networks" that were planning to assassinate Samir Ja'ja', Karim Paqraduni, and other LF officials. Contending that these networks were organized by "Syrian agent Elie Hubayqah," the official warned that the fate of "renegades" from East Beirut will be no better than of those who preceded them along the "road of treason."

Egypt

Fifteen people were formally accused of conspiring with Libya to commit "hostile acts" against Egyptian national interests, MENA reported 22 November, adding that the seven defendants who are in custody were remanded to the Supreme State Security Court for trial.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speech—In a 22 November address to the opening of the General People's Congress carried by Tripoli television, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi denounced the Arab states which resumed diplomatic relations with Egypt, and he accused them of toeing the U.S. line and of planning to recognize Israel. It is "disgraceful" for Libya to have relations with such "filthy" or "traitorous" regimes, Al-Qadhdhafi asserted, adding if the decision were his, he would have "expelled their embassies." The Libyan leader urged the congress to study foreign relations "with precision and calm," giving special attention to promoting ties with progressive countries and the socialist community. Relations with the latter should be discussed "deeply and seriously," he said, adding that there is no harm in pointing out that the Libyan revolution did the Soviet Union a "great service" by breaking the "single chain" which existed against the USSR from Morocco to Turkey. On the subject of regional relations, Col al-Qadhdhafi praised the "new era" in Tunisia and encouraged the Libyan people to extend a "helping hand" to their Tunisian "brothers." The two countries should "open a new page" in their relations, he suggested. Regarding the recent conflict with Chad, Al-Qadhdhafi stressed that he will not be interested in the Aozou strip when Chad becomes "free" and there is no danger that Aozou could be turned into a base representing a "serious threat" to North Africa.

Response to Chadian Accusations—In a commentary carried 21 November, JANA's political editor denied Chadian allegations that Libya is strengthening its military forces in preparation for an offensive in Aozou. Libya cannot be prevented from strengthening its bases "inside its territories," the editor asserted, and he reiterated the charge that France and the United States "are fuelling this war between brothers." An Algerian Foreign Ministry communique cited by Algiers radio the following day also denied Chadian charges that 100 Algerian "aviation technicians" are in Libya.

Maghreb Affairs

Tunisian-Libyan Relations—Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri briefed President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali and Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche on the outcome of his short visit to Libya 21 November during which he met with Libya's Col al-Qadhdhafi and discussed bilateral relations as well as the Maghreb and Arab situations, Tunis radio reported. The visit came within the framework of the "new dynamics" of Tunisian foreign policy, the radio added. In an interview with the Egyptian weekly *Uktubar* cited by MENA, Prime Minister Baccouche noted the differences between Tunisia and Libya and declared that the two countries are still trying to find a "basis for normalization and for the restoration of diplomatic ties." Baccouche also disclosed that ties with Egypt will be upgraded to the ambassadorial level; however, Tunisia plans to "normalize" relations "at a later date," he said.

Algerian-Moroccan Talks—President Chadli Bendjedid received Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali who delivered a message from King Hassan II, Algiers radio reported, noting that the Moroccan minister's talks with his counterpart, Taleb Ibrahimi focused on bilateral relations as well as efforts to speed up Maghreb unity and to "remove obstacles" such as the Western Sahara problem.

UN Mission—A UN fact-finding mission on Western Sahara arrived in Morocco 20 November, Rabat radio reported. A Saharan communique cited by APS accused Morocco of "mystifying attempts" to distort the mission's objectives and pledged to cooperate with the UN group.

Sudan

Protest to Ethiopia—The Ethiopian charge was summoned 22 November to receive a protest of that country's alleged involvement in the recent shelling of Kurmuk, SUNA reported. In remarks cited by the agency, Foreign Minister Ma'mun Sanadah asserted that the rebel SPLM was not believed to be capable of launching such an attack without assistance. The minister also declared that Ethiopian Kurmuk had been evacuated prior to the attack. The Ethiopian diplomat reiterated his country's denial of interference in Sudan's internal affairs, the agency noted.

Jordanian Military Aid—SUNA cited a 21 November report in *Al-Adwa'* that Jordanian King Husayn promised "urgent shipments" of 30 million dollars worth of military materiel. The commitment came during a meeting between the king and State Council Chairman Ahmad 'Ali Al-Mirghani which occurred on the sidelines of the Arab summit in Amman, the paper noted.

Military Reporting Banned—Official government spokesman Muhammad al-Tum, acting minister of culture and information, instructed all media correspondents to refrain from reporting on military movements, preparations, or materiel, SUNA reported 22 November.

Government Formation Postponed—The coalition Al-Ummah and Democratic Union Parties have agreed to "delay indefinitely" the formation of a new government, according to a 21 November *Al-Sudan* report cited by SUNA.

Afghanistan

Protocol on Planning—Following a meeting of the DRA-USSR subcommission on cooperation in planning, the two sides signed a protocol in Kabul 22 November, Kabul radio reported. According to Moscow radio, the training of Afghan planning cadres was one of the important issues addressed in the agreement.

Cabinet Change—A new minister of technical and vocational education has been appointed, Kabul radio reported 22 November.

Inter-Arab Affairs

AL-QABAS on Syrian-Iraqi Contacts

JN221336 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 19 Nov 87 pp 1, 29

[By Rakan al-Majali from Amman]

[Text] Reliable sources in Amman have affirmed that an important meeting will be held between Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister, in Amman in the next few days. A number of other Syrian and Iraqi ministers will participate in this meeting in the form of specialized committees to discuss various aspects of relations.

The sources said that the Jordanian monarch held a lengthy telephone conversation with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to fix the date of this meeting, which will pave the way for a summit meeting between the Iraqi and Syrian presidents as soon as possible. Presidents Saddam and Al-Asad earlier agreed that the foreign ministers of both countries would hold a political meeting. They also agreed that implementing measures to convene this summit depends on the meeting between the two ministers.

President Saddam Husayn told President al-Asad that Iraq is prepared to fix the date of the meeting in Amman at any time. President al-Asad told him that Syria will propose an appropriate date for holding this meeting within a week, expressing Syria's eagerness to begin practical steps in preparation for holding the summit between the two leaders. It was also agreed to announce the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries after the summit meeting. It was agreed in principle to exchange visits between the Iraqi and Syrian presidents at a future stage.

The Jordanian monarch, who has had many previous contacts—all positive—with the two presidents, spoke to President al-Asad about fixing a date for the two foreign ministers' meeting, leaving this issue for Syria. President al-Asad told the Jordanian monarch that the days had passed so quickly while Syria was preoccupied with the Corrective Movement celebrations that he did not notice that a week had passed since the Amman summit. He promised that Syria will convey the date of the meeting in the next 2 days. He said he hoped this meeting would take place in the next week. As for the summit meeting, President al-Asad expressed a sincere desire to expedite its convocation in light of the ministerial meeting which will take place in Amman.

As for the scenario of Syrian-Iraqi relations, reliable sources have affirmed that security contacts between both countries have taken place. They added that these meetings dotted the i's with regard to relations between the two countries. The sources affirmed that the security file was not complicated this time. For approximately 1 year, operations between the two countries have almost completely ceased. During these meetings, however, information and documents were exchanged and many viewpoints on many issues of interest to Syria and Iraq were corrected.

A senior Jordanian official told *Al-Qabas* that reports saying that bilateral economic meetings will be held at this stage on reopening the oil pipeline between the two countries are incorrect. The official said that President Saddam told President al-Asad that currently Iraq does not need this pipeline and that by the beginning of next year it will be able to export approximately 3 million barrels per day through Turkey and Saudi Arabia. At the same time, Iraq is prepared to reopen this line in the service of Syria.

The Jordanian official said that according to Syrian and Iraqi estimations, the reopening will not be easy. It will need maintainence and repairs lasting 4 months, which is not long considering the size of the operation. It is expected that Syria will ask to operate this line, which will increase Iraq's exports. However, Syria particularly needs it for mixing the good-quality Iraqi oil with the Syrian oil in which there is a high percentage of sulphur, which causes the Syrian oil refining machines to malfunction. Syria would have no alternative but this line if Iran were to halt its supply of oil.

The Jordanian official said Syria suffers from irregular Iranian oil shipments due to the instability of its oil exportation capacity. The ministerial committee, which will meet in Amman, will discuss other areas of cooperation, particularly foreign trade and economic and tourist exchange. However, the main issue of the meeting of the two countries' foreign ministers will be to discuss the political bases for normalizing relations between the two countries.

It is definite that Iraq and Syria expressed eagerness to each send a high-level ambassador to push relations forward.

In principle, the venue of the Syrian-Iraqi summit will be Amman. These sources do not rule out that this meeting could be held on the Syrian-Jordanian-Iraqi border triangle in Umm al-Shamat.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on PLO-Syria Ties, Lebanon

LD211650 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1437 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Beirut, 21 Nov (KUNA)—A high-ranking Palestinian official said that a new page is now open in relations between the PLO and Syria. He rejected the disarming of the Palestinians in Lebanon before the disarming of all others on the scene. He said that new developments in reconciliation between Syria and Iraq can be expected. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, alias Abu

'Ammar, told the Lebanese weekly magazine *Al-Nahar al-'Arabi wa al-Dawli*, issued today, that "we can say that a positive atmosphere has begun with a constructive spirit" with Syria. He said that this atmosphere appeared during the Arab summit held in Amman on 8 November, "mainly in the talks held between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Chadli Bendjedid, in my presence." He explained "that the atmosphere is positive and has opened a new page."

The magazine pointed out that the interview with the Palestinian leader was carried out by telephone while 'Arafat was in Baghdad. 'Arafat reported that new developments concerning the reconciliation between Iraq and Syria can be expected this week.

He expressed his satisfaction with the results of the Arab summit on the Palestinian level. He said he is an optimist and pointed out that the Palestinian question is the one that benefited most from the summit "because the success of the summit means the success of our cause. Together with Syria to Jerusalem until victory."

'Arafat denounced the recent events in Sidon between the Palestinian fighters and members of the Al-Nasirite Popular Organization of Mustafa Sa'd which claimed the lives of 7 people and injured 50 others. He expressed his hope that the events could be dealt with in a fraternal sense of responsibility." [quotation marks as received]

Asked if he thought the Syrian forces stationed at the northern approaches of Sidon would enter the center of the city and take up positions around 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah Palestinian camps to prevent the occurrence of such events in the future, 'Arafat replied: "I cannot give a precise reply to this question. We have to wait until matters are resolved." The PLO leader rejected any idea of disarming the Palestinians in Lebanon before disarming all others. He recalled in this respect the sufferings of the Palestinians of the Sabra and Shatila camps during the Israeli march on Beirut and said: "We are ready to respond to the Lebanese request to put down our arms when all other factions in Lebanon also put theirs down."

It is recalled that the Christian militias, led by Elie Hubayqah, committed a horrible carnage at the Sabra and Shatila camps in September 1982 in collusion with the Israeli forces, which cordoned off the two camps. During the carnage, the Christian militia killed several hundred Palestinians, including women, old men and children.

'Arafat expressed his hope that the agreement reached in Algeria among Walid Junblatt, leader of the Socialist Progressive Party; Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement; and the three Palestinian officials, DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah, Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, and Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, on ending the camps war in Lebanon, would be implemented. He added: "We hope from the bottom of our hearts that this agreement will be implemented as soon as possible."

He called for providing Lebanon with full support, saying "it is the duty of us all, as an Arab nation, to provide Lebanon with all support to save it from the tragic economic crisis which has befallen these people." He expressed his belief that Lebanon will not receive any Arab aid until Lebanese-Lebanese harmony is restored "away from all external influences."

Salah Khalaf on Summit, Syria, Lebanon

LD231129 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0825 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Nov (KUNA)—In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Watan*, published here today, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, praised Kuwait's principled and constant attitude toward the Palestinian people and their just cause. He affirmed that his meetings with the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad; the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah; and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, were important, constructive, and fruitful. He added that during these meetings, current issues, particularly that of the Iraq-Iran war and the political developments concerning the Palestinian question, were discussed.

He stressed the Palestinian people's support for Kuwait against any foreign aggression, and said: "I have asked the Kuwaiti officials, and more precisely Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad, to permit the Palestinians to volunteer for civil defense duties to help defend their second homeland, Kuwait."

Khalaf expressed his belief that the Amman extraordinary Arab summit conference held early this month had succeeded in saving the Arabs from falling into the trap of a regional axes policy and in protecting them from grouping and dismemberment, which could have happened had the conference failed. He pointed out, however, that the discussion of the Palestinian question at the Arab summit was not in the manner wished by the PLO. He added: "Confining the resolutions of the Palestinian question to the aspect of the international conference dwarfs the issue and does injustice to the struggle of the Palestinian people."

He said that the summit resolutions should have emphasized the military option and the need to continue the struggle and support for the Palestinian people in the occupied territory. He said: "Sending some millions to the steadfast hungry mouths in the occupied territory would have been much better than a resolution pertaining to a conference that might not take place."

Khalaf described the proposed Middle East peace conference as one of the stations on the road which could take place this year or the following one, but it was not the ultimate station nor was it the sole means open to the Palestinian people.

Khalaf said the Palestinian leader who would recognize Resolution 242 had not been born yet and that it was unlikely this would be at the top of the agenda of the forthcoming U.S.-Soviet summit.

Referring to Palestinian-Syrian relations, Khalaf said the meetings that took place among the officials of both sides on the sidelines of the emergency Arab summit conference were to smooth things out and that the PLO was awaiting a decision by Syria to invite a high-ranking Palestinian delegation for a direct dialogue with Syrian officials. He added: "So far, more than 4 months have passed since the holding of discussions and dialogues with Syria through messages and emissaries."

With regard to what has become known as the war of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, Khalaf said that three factors have combined to make the leader of the Amal movement, Nabih Birri, consider ending this war which has been going on intermittently for 3 years: the steadfastness of the defenders of the camps, the balance of power in Lebanon, and the Syrian-Palestinian rapprochement. He expressed his belief that Minister Birri was now sincere in his desire to end the camps war through his commitment to the implementation of the provisions of the 11 September agreement, which was signed between the Amal Movement and the Palestinian detachments under the auspices of the Nasirite Popular Organization in Sidon, the provincial capital of southern Lebanon.

PLO-Syrian Normalization 'Progressing Fast'

JN221709 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Ittihad* has learned that the normalization process between the PLO and Syria is progressing fast and that the atmosphere now favors starting a clean slate in bilateral ties. Palestinian sources told *Al-Ittihad* the arrival in Damascus a few days ago of 'Umar al-Shal'a, head of the office of Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO's Political Department, along with Kamal al-Shaykh, an aide, signals moves in this direction. The two men went to Damascus to inspect Qaddumi's office in the Bayt al-Din District and to refurnish and prepare it for meetings to be held in the near future between the Syrian Government and the PLO.

PLO Denies Seized Boat Carried 'Fighters'

PM201305 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Nov 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "PLO Official Tells *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*: Hijacked Boat Is a Tug and Was Not Carrying Palestinian Fighters"]

[Excerpt] London—The PLO has confirmed that the Israeli Navy hijacked a boat flying the Honduran flag on the high seas in the Mediterranean the day before yesterday and forced it to go to Haifa port in occupied Palestinian territory. An official of the PLO office in Nicosia, in a telephone statement to *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* in London, said that the claim that the boat was carrying Palestinian fighters is untrue. He pointed out that the hijacked boat is a tug and had a crew of five Palestinian civilians.

Asked about the spot where the boat was hijacked, the official of the PLO office in Nicosia said that the tug had left Limassol last Sunday for Yemen. As soon as it entered international waters between Cyprus and Egypt, he said, it was intercepted by Israeli boats and warships which forced it to proceed to Haifa. [passage omitted]

Communiques Detail Anti-Israeli Operations

JN211900 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Four military communiques issued by the military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] First: Pursuant to instructions, our heroes of the martyr Colonel Rasim al-Ghul group operating in the occupied homeland set an ambush for enemy military patrols and vehicles near the occupied town of Halhul. At 2230 on 18 November 1987, and while an enemy military vehicle was passing by, our revolutionaries attacked it with hand grenades, destroying it and wounding its occupants. The occupation forces immediately imposed a curfew on the new quarters in the town, stormed scores of houses, and arrested dozens of citizens on the pretext of questioning them. Our revolutionaries returned safely to base.

Second: Our heroes of the martyr Zafir al-Masri group operating in the occupied homeland penetrated all enemy checkpoints and security measures and planted time bombs inside the military purchases department in Petah Tiqwa's central market. The group's personnel then moved out of the operation scene successfully. While the Zionist security forces were combing the area at 1515 on 19 November 1987, the bombs were discovered and the market was completely evacuated. The Zionist police bomb disposal experts could not defuse the bombs so they detonated them where they were discovered at 1540. The explosion caused heavy material losses in the market.

Third: The military action of our forces operating in the occupied homeland has continued against enemy military and vital targets. This military action coincided with our people's continued uprising against the Zionist presence on the soil of our occupied homeland. Our heroes of the martyr Shastri group operating in the occupied homeland have planted a land

mine in a road used by military patrols near the town of Halhul. While a military vehicle was traveling on this road at 1630 on 19 November 1987, the mine went off, completely destroying the vehicle and killing or wounding all enemy soldiers in it. Enemy forces and reinforcements which rushed into the area could not find our heroes. They launched a large-scale arrest campaign which also included our kinfolk in the areas surrounding the town.

Four: Our revolutionaries of the martyr Samir Dhiyab group operating in the occupied homeland at 1915 on 19 November 1987 launched an attack with incendiary bombs against an enemy military bus. The bus was carrying soldiers entrusted with besieging the Palestinian camp of Balatah. It was attacked while leaving the camp area despite the enemy forces' intensive presence there. The explosion of numerous incendiary bombs inside the bus shattered most of its windows and started a fire causing material losses. One enemy soldier was wounded.

Bus Attacked in Gaza

JN221955 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1812 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Military communique issued by the military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] Pursuant to instructions, one of our combat groups operating inside the occupied homeland last night attacked a Zionist military bus with incendiary grenades while it was traveling near the Islamic University in occupied Gaza. The attack resulted in burning the bus and wounding enemy personnel who were on it at the time. Large occupation army and police forces rushed to the operation site, cordoned it off, closed the entrances leading to the site, began large-scale search operations, and arrested scores of Palestinians on the pretext of involvement in the operation. Our combat group returned safely to base. Revolution until victory.

Algeria

President Receives Moroccan Foreign Minister

LD212016 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid has received Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, who gave him a message from King Hassan II. Following their meeting, Filali stated on Algerian television: We are convinced that continuing our dialogue will yield positive results. The Moroccan foreign minister added that the delegation he is now leading in Algiers will have talks with Taleb Ibrahimi. Our mission, he concluded, is to use dialogue to work out bilateral relations and the future of the Great Arab Maghreb.

Talks are already under way. Following a private discussion, Abdellatif Filali and Taleb Ibrahimi held a working session as delegations from both countries participated. These talks centered around the current efforts to quicken construction of a unified great Arab Maghreb and to remove obstacles to this process, particularly the conflict in the Western Sahara, where Morocco and the Polisario oppose each other. Prospects for bilateral relations were also discussed.

Chad Claim of 'Technicians' Aiding Libya Denied

LD222259 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] This evening, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied remarks made in Paris yesterday by Chadian Minister of Agriculture Abdelkader Kamougue. Kamougue had alleged that roughly 100 Algerian aviation technicians are currently in Libya to reinforce Libyan troops. This evening in Algiers, it was announced that these accusations, which were termed as unacceptable and which were greeted with consternation, are false. The communique issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicates that Algeria, which is inspired by a desire to develop relations of friendship and cooperation with Chad as with the other African states, appeals for a sense of responsibility. Algeria calls on Africa to attest to its constructiveness and perseverence in serving the higher interests of that fraternal country.

Foreign Ministry Official Returns From Tunisia

LD230411 Algiers APS in English 1309 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Tunis, 22/11/87 (APS)—The secretary general of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Smail Hamdani, was back from Tunis Saturday after a visit during which he had a [word indistinct] talks with Taieb Sahbani, Tunisian secretary of state to the foreign minister.

Talks took up various aspects of cooperation between the two brotherly countries and questions likely to be included in the agenda of the large Algerian-Tunisian joint commission which will be held in Algiers next March.

During his stay in Tunis, Hamdani was also audienced by prime minister, Hedi Baccouche and Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri.

Chad

'Major' Libyan Offensive Reported Upcoming

AB201052 Paris AFP in French 1025 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Ndjamena, 20 Nov (AFP)—This morning Chadian radio announced that Libya is getting ready to attack Chad and that Libyan troops are currently reinforcing their positions in the north, east, and west of the country. The official Chadian radio, which did not cite its sources, explained that "all Libyan military bases in southern Libya" have been (?reinforced), especially Uwaynat, Ma'tan al-Sarra (which the Chadian Army destroyed last September), Aozou, Al-Wigh, and Bi'r al-Wa'r. The latter location is a base "recently" constructed on the Libya-Niger border.

This "gigantic reinforcement" in men and materiel is certainly an indication of a "major Libyan offensive" against Chad in the "coming months," according to the radio. It once again denounced the "connivance" of certain Sudanese authorities concerning the "thousands" of Libyan soldiers stationed in Darfur Province, which is on the border with Chad.

In another development, the Chadian radio announced that Libyan aircraft flew over Bardai, Wour, and Zoumri, in the extreme north of the country, on Wednesday, 18 November. Bardai was overflown again yesterday, according to the radio, which accused Libya of violating the cease-fire supposed to have been observed by both countries since 11 September. This cease-fire came at the request of the Zambian head of state, Kenneth Kaunda, who is also the current OAU chairman.

Kamougue Criticizes Algerians Aiding Libya

AB201228 Paris AFP in French 0738 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Paris, 20 Nov (AFP)—Algeria has despatched aviation personnel to Libya. They have gone to join the "mercenaries that Tripoli has been recruiting in the Near East and the Middle East." This was stated by Chadian Minister of Agriculture Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue in Paris on the evening of 18 November. Chadian sources in Paris believe that there are about 100 of these (?Algerian) "aviation technicians." During an interview with journalists, Kamougue deplored the attitude of Algeria. He referred to it as a country that could play a role in returning peace to the region. This meeting was also attended by Hassan Djamous, commander in chief of the

FANT. Algeria, Kamougue noted, is a member of the OAU ad hoc committee concerned with the Chad-Libya conflict. Mr Kamougue also denounced the "almost daily" violations of Chadian airspace by the Libyan Air Force. He additionally accused Tripoli of taking advantage of the present truce to "strengthen its troops on all fronts."

Hassan Djamous, or the "comchef," [commander in chief] as he is known in Chad, believes that approximately 500 Libyan soldiers—including some from the Islamic legion—are concentrated in Sudan's Darfur Province, close to the eastern border of Chad. "Libyan elements," he pointed out, have been spotted in the far southern region of Sudan, close to its border with the Central African Republic. All Libyan air and land bases have been considerably strengthened, he added. He did not believe that these preparations, including the "general mobilization in Libya," were for completely defensive purposes.

Mr Kamougue and the "comchef" were also not very optimistic about a negotiated solution to the conflict. Mr Kamougue said that Libya, to buy time, is planning to transfer the case to the International Court of Justice at The Hague. He stated: "If this is true, then we ask that this transfer includes not only the border dispute but also the entire Chad-Libya conflict; that is, the problems of Tripoli's recogniton of Chadian sovereignty and [territorial] integrity." Finally, when asked to comment on his reconciliation with President Hissein Habre, Mr Kamougue, who was formerly vice president of the Chadian opposition grouped within the GUNT, replied: "The reconciliation to date is going very well."

Upcoming Garang Visit Denied by Envoy to Cairo

NC221410 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—Joseph Gibang Mbida, the Chadian ambassdor to Cairo, has emphatically denied reports stating that John Garang, leader of the rebels in southern Sudan, may visit Chad.

Recent press reports had said that Garang will visit Chad at the head of a party of SPLA members. This movement opposes the ruling regime in Sudan.

Egypt

Seven Go on Trial for Sabotage, Libyan Ties

NC221526 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—Attorney General Counsellor 'Abd al-Hamid al-Jundi today referred 15 defendants, seven of whom are already in custody, to the Supreme State Security Court for trial on charges of establishing contact and plotting with a foreign country, Libya.

The public prosecutor has asked for the implementation of criminal law articles that provide for life imprisonment, or shorter periods of imprisonment plus hard labor sentences.

He noted that the defendants had participated in a criminal agreement to perpetrate the following crimes: Communicating with a foreign country, "the Libyan Jamahiriyah," and with individuals in its service, in order to carry out hostile acts against Egypt that seek to harm the country's political and economic status and its national interests; receiving sums of money and other benefits for their activities; and manufacturing and possessing explosives in order to use them in a manner bound to endanger the lives and possessions of people. The Prosecutor added that numerous crimes had taken place as a result of this agreement.

The following were named as defendants: Salah al-Din Dasuqi, 'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid 'Ali, Jamal al-Din Munib, Muhammad 'Awad al-Ghamri, Hafiz al-Sayyid Sa'dah, Yasir Muhammad 'Abd al-Jawwad, Ahmad Muhammad al-Sawi, Muhammad Sha'ban Salim, Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid 'Abd al-Qadir, Ahmad 'Abd al-Mu'ti Mahmud, [first name indistinct] Yasin Husayn Barakat, Nasir Muhammad Amin, Ahmad Muhammad Rajab, Muhammad 'Ali 'Amir, and 'Abd al-Qawi 'Ali Agha.

Eight of the defendants are currently fugitives from the law. They are the second, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth listed.

In his decision to refer the defendants to court, the public prosecutor noted that they had contacted individuals working for a foreign country by communicating with some people working in the Libyan Jamahiriyah and together they had agreed to carry out acts of sabotage inside the country, such as blowing up some foreign-owned property and installations, or those which are jointly owned with foreigners. For this purpose some of them traveled to the Libyan Jamahiriyah in groups. There they were given military training and instruction in how to carry out acts of sabotage. Then they were sent back into the country to carry out their missions.

The public prosecutor pointed out that the defendants acquired and possessed [word indistinct] firearms, "pistols," and ammunition without obtaining permits. They also acquired gelignite explosives. Their possession of explosive materials, weapons, and ammunition was in order to act against public order and security.

The public prosecutor added that the defendants had used explosives in a manner designed to jeopardize the possessions of others. The third defendant had prepared an explosive charge and the first and fourth defendants had placed it, after attaching a timing device to it, at the entrance of the International Egypt-America Bank.

The prosecutor indicated that all the defendants, except the sixth, the fourth, and the last, had received money and tickets to travel abroad, as well as a quarters allowance, from Libyan intelligence, in return for carrying out acts of sabotage in Egypt to jeopardize the country's security and safety.

The prosecutor added that the first and second defendants had established rules and regulations and had managed an illegal party organization having a military character, contrary to the provisions of the law. They had thus formed a secret party that would oppose the basic principles on which the system of government is based, as well as incite resistance to the public authorities. Their capacity for force and violence was noticeable, for they had trained the members of the group in the manufacture and use of explosives and firearms.

The prosecutor said that the third through the fourteenth defendants had joined the illegal and quasi-military party organization and knowingly participated in its activities.

He said that the last defendant had acquired and kept an unlicensed firearm (pistol) in his possession.

The public prosecutor ordered that the eight defendants who had absconded be arrested and held in custody pending further investigations into the case.

He mentioned in his remarks on the case that defendant Jamal al-Din Munib had admitted during questioning that he had joined an illegal secret organization in 1983 after 'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid had spoken to him of its ideology, aims, and principles.

This same defendant admitted that the organization follows the Nasirite ideology, which is based on three main goals: socialism, unity, and freedom. These, he said, differ in content from the practices of the existing system of government.

He stated that the organization is led by a group that includes the first and second defendants and is divided into a group of cells, each of which is headed by a liaison official. He also said that they sought to recruit new members into the organization.

Defendant Jamal Munib has confessed that he traveled with members of the organization to the Libyan Jamahiriyah to receive military and technical training on how to blow up buildings and installations and on how to prepare explosive devices. In this respect, the defendant admitted that at the beginning of October 1985 he had received instructions to travel, along with some other individuals, to Libya by way of several other countries. A number of secret meetings were consequently held in Vienna, Austria, and Yugoslavia. He added that on their way to Libya they met with some Libyan intelligence personnel.

Defendant Jamal Munib also confessed that he and some other defendants stayed in Libya for 1 month. During that time they received training in the use of firearms and other military and combat activities, in addition to instruction in the theory of [Al-Qhadhdhafi's] Green Book.

Egyptian security organs had earlier obtained information which disclosed that Jamal al-Din Munib Ibrahim Junaydi had made contacts with an organization whose tenets included the use of force and violence to oppose the country's existing system of government. The information had also indicated that the organization included elements who believed in the use of armed force, and that these individuals had been responsible for placing an explosive device in front of the vault of the International Egypt-America Bank on 29 May 1986.

The Security Forces had also uncovered all the secret communications carried out by the organization, as well as information on its members' trips abroad. Information was obtained on its philosophy and all its activities, including the organization's plans to assassinate the Israeli ambassador in Cairo and to blow up the bus which travels between Cairo and Israel.

The Security Forces arrested a number of the organization's members and discovered all the weapons they had used, as well as leaflets and documents, in their possession.

The prosecution also listened to the testimony of 11 witnesses, 8 of whom were policemen, who had surveilled the organization's activities up to the arrest of its members.

Second Indictment for Another Terrorist Group

JN210947 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 18 Nov 87 p 7

[By Majdi 'Abd al-Ghani]

[Text] The attorney general will in the next few days bring a second indictment against another terrorist group. Self-styled "The Muslims" or "Those Delivered From the Fire," they accuse society of apostacy, having renounced Islam. They stress that the government is apostate and illegitimate as it fails to be inspired by the Islamic caliphate. The group advocates a ban on education in government schools, work in the government sector, and service in the Armed Forces and police. They maintain that women properly belong at home and should be banned from leaving home under any circumstances. The group members abstain from imported food, especially meat, and contend that theft of funds and property from the state is permissible because it is not ruling by the Koran. As they see it, the only way to rectify and reform society is to assassinate leaders and officials. They aim to change the system of government by violence.

This terrorist group is unique in that it is family based, all its members being blood-related; they are akin to the Italian Mafia. They are led by Majdi al-Safti, Yusri 'Abd al-Mun'im, and Muhammad Kazi—all related by blood or marriage. They have traveled abroad, where their thoughts have been poisoned. It occured to them to establish their terrorist group last Ramadan [May 1987]. They began to recruit members. They opted for violence, planned their terrorist operations without delay, choosing for their targets former interior ministers, and set about their business.

They treacherously shot and wounded Hasan Abu Basha in front of his Al-'Ajizah home. They grew more zealous in their bloody approach, planning other operations: They shot Makram Muhammad Ahmad, counting on the fact that the security services had no files on them. The success went to their heads; they distributed terrorist leaflets which they sent to officials. The leaflets read: "Would that you learn from Abu Basha's and Makram's lesson. Would that you learned that your prisons and words will not strike terror in our hearts. Our creed is superior to all falsehood; our road is the word and the sword. We will give peace to those offering us peace and war to those offering us war. Our bullets will harvest the heads of all the tyrants and devils. Signed: The Muslims."

These leaflets provided the Interior Ministry's security services with leads. Their profile was discerned. The security services began to approach their hideouts in the village of Al-Kharqaniyah. They were besieged and nearly caught, but the black terror drove them to open fire on officers and soldiers. They killed Amin Hamadah, a police officer, and wounded three others before they fled the scene. They were hunted down from village to village. Their military leader and mastermind, Muhammad Kazim, was killed, paying with his life for his extremism and branding society with apostacy.

The leaflet war broke out again. They mailed threats to all officials. They printed poems with Islamic themes, branding society apostate and the people apostates, agents, and ignoramuses. They forgot that Islam is a religion of tolerance; they forgot that true debate is conducted amicably and by setting a good example. They carried on with their bloody plans. They stalked their targets and monitored their daily routines, after which they set the dates for their savage operations. They seemed to have forgotten, however, that the security services were monitoring them, going after them, and making plans to catch them. One by one they fell into the hands of the security agencies. They did not believe they had failed. How could those spared hell fail? they thought. They believe they are men of thought and principle; they are the righteous caliphs. They forgot the blood they spilled, the innocents they injured, and the victims they killed. They forgot the moral crimes they committed against themselves and their families. They forgot their bizarre ideas: They intermarry; a member of the group marries a sister or daughter of his companion. Couples live in rooms separated by nothing more than a brick or wooden partition. Just imagine four people living in one room! In their eyes, marriage shouldn't be much of a problem. There is no need for an official to perform marriages, or for a dowry. For them marriage is a matter of mutual consent; it spells the end of a woman's life outside her home. She is banned from going out under any circumstances. She should not work and is not allowed to receive members of her family, not even a brother!

The members of this organization mostly sought work in private businesses, enabling them to move about relatively freely, and making it harder for security personnel to track their activities. They chose their meeting places far from mosques. They used the clinic of their leader Majdi al-Safti to get in touch with people. They recruited many patients, banking on their illness and pain to control them. Strangely enough, a large number of stolen government cars were found by the security services at the hideouts of terrorists. The vehicles, all government and police property, were used by the culprits in their sordid operations. Also found at the hideouts were large numbers of guns, rifles, bombs, and bullets. In the eyes of the group, robbing the government is permissible; they view the government as illegitimate because of its failure to follow the righteous predecessors. They want the rulers to descend from the orthodox caliphs, or else both the rulers and the ruled are transgressors.

Paper on Reported Soviet-Iranian Defense Ties

NC220703 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 22 Nov 87

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial, *Akhbar Al-Yawm* notes that Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani stunned the world when he revealed that talks are currently underway with Moscow to conclude a joint defense pact between the Khomeyni regime, which raises the slogan of the Islamic Republic, and the Soviet Union.

The newspaper says that the Soviet Union is a superpower and a permanent member of the Security Council. It recalls that that country voted in favor of Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for an immediate halt to the Gulf war. It is now apparent, the newspaper points out, that Iran is the party which has rejected the implementation of the resolution's provisions, while Iraq has accepted them.

Akhbar Al-Yawm stresses that in the event that the Soviet Union agrees to sign a joint defense pact with the Khomeyni regime, several questions will be raised about the Kremlin's aims to strengthen relations with a government which has been branded as terrorist and extremist by the whole world.

Kuwait, UAE Governments Name Ambassadors

NC212253 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—The Kuwaiti and UAE Governments have announced that Kuwaiti Charge d'Affaires 'Abd al-Raziq al-Kandri and UAE Charge d'Affaires Jassim Samhan will serve as ambassadors to Egypt following the resumption of relations between the two countries and Cairo. In its Sunday edition, *Al-Ahram* says that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has received notification from the Kuwait and UAE Governments to this effect. [passage omitted]

Ceausescu Arrives in Cairo on 2-Day Visit

NC231118 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 2-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak.

Mubarak Receives Malawian Envoy, Message

NC221919 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received Cecilia Tamange Kadzamira, personal envoy of the Malawian president. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who attended the meeting, said afterwards that Cecilia Tamange Kadzamira had delivered a message to President Mubarak from President Banda of Malawi. He added that her visit concerns the promotion of bilateral cooperation and noted that a group of Egyptian experts work in Malawi. President Banda's envoy conveyed to President Mubarak a request for additional Egyptian experts. The president acceded to the request.

Beninese Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

NC201405 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Benin's Minister of Foreign Affairs Guy Hazoume left Cairo at noon today following a 4-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, he was received by President Husni Mubarak, to whom he conveyed a message from Beninese President Mathieu Kerekou. He also signed an executive protocol on cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries. He was seen off at the airport by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Paper Commends ACLU Suit on PLO Presence

NC180806 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—*Al-Ahram* has praised the positive decision by the American Civil Liberties Union [ACLU] to go to court to contest the U.S. State Department's decision to close the PLO Information Office in Washington on 1 December.

In its 18 November editorial, the paper says that this legal case challenges the decision's constitutionality and restriction of U.S. political life, which espouses the principles of liberty and democracy. The decision was made in September due to what the U.S. State Department has termed at the time terrorist activities attributed to the PLO.

The paper regrets that the crisis between Washington and the PLO—between which many parties have tried in vain to build bridges—has reached the point of seeking recourse to the U.S. Constitution concerning the PLO's informational, not terrorist, activities, because hundreds of organizations enjoy this right so long as they remain within the law.

Al-Ahram stresses that the issue is basically a political one resulting from constant pressures on the U.S. Administration to impede any solution to the Palestinian issue. These pressures come from influential, effective, and dominant (?groups) manipulated by Israel and Zionist organizations, particularly those parties whose interests agree on silencing the Palestinian voice before the American public.

The paper adds that there are those working to make this decision the starting point for an assault on PLO activities at the United Nations, ending Palestinian efforts within the United States. It notes that despite the State Department's objection to the closure of the PLO's office at the United Nations, where it has observer status, as this would constitute a threat to the United Nations' independence and effectiveness as an international organization with a right to host delegations on its premises, there are frantic efforts by some hostile parties with much influence to rob the Palestinian people of their right to an international presence.

Libya

General People's Congress To Meet 22 Nov

LD201608 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Here is a decision of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress, No 39-1987, on convening a session of the General People's Congress. Having consulted the declaration of the establishment of people's authority, the Secretariat has decided the following:

Clause 1: The General People's Congress is requested to meet at 0900 on Sunday, 22 November 1987, at the People's Hall in Tripoli, to draft the minutes of the agenda of the Third Basic People's Congresses and to draft the law of the civil service.

Clause 2: This decision comes into effect immediately and is to be published in the gazette.

[Signed] The Secretariat of the General People's Congress

JANA Rejects AFP Allegations on Chad Attack

LD211008 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Nov (JANA)—The French Press Agency (AFP) yesterday alleged that Libyan forces are strengthening their positions and preparing to attack Chad.

Quoting Radio Ndjamena, the French agency added that all the Libyan military bases south of Libya have been strengthened, particularly in Al-'Uwaynat, Maaten es-Sara, and Tummo.

The JANA political editor comments as follows: AFP is undoubtedly a racist and colonialist agency which is not happy with peace and the establishment of security between brothers in Africa.

The ongoing aim of these racists and colonialists is undoubtedly to implement their motto of "divide Chad" which they seek to do continuously.

It has become quite clear that the French intelligence services supply Ndjamena with false reports and information which are spread afterwards by Ndjamena through its media. We are not surprised by such actions from those colonialists as they are not pleased when the seeds of security and stability emerge in any region of the Third World. They work continuously to start wars in order to sabotage all attempts leading to peace and security.

The editor adds that the whole world knows that the Great Jamahiriyah has declared a halt to the war against Chad and has stated that it has left Chad for the Chadians. The Jamahiriyah has presented documments to the commission set up by the OAU, in the conviction that the Jamahiriyah has no doubt that Aozou has been part of Libyan territory since the time of the Ottomans. Libya did not enter Aozou in 1974 as is claimed by colonialist and imperialist circles. Aozou has been Libyan since its start and since the beginning of Libya.

As for the Jamahiriyah strengthening its bases inside its territories, there is no one who can stop Libya from doing so. How can these colonialist circles talk about such a thing? Who has the right to prevent a state from defending its land, especially since the Jamahiriyah has been the target of Franco-U.S. aggression launched inside its territories in the past? The whole world was a witness to that.

French and U.S. colonialists are the ones who are fuelling this war among brothers. They are adding fuel to the fire to increase its flame. They have deployed two missile bases along the border of the Great Jamahiriyah. U.S. orders were issued to its agents in Zaire, who mobilized 4,000 Zairian soldiers along the border of the Jamahiriyah.

All this took place during the cease-fire, which the Jamahiriyah wanted to use to end any belligerent acts, whereas the colonialists wanted it to be an opportunity to prepare a colonialist war against the Jamahiriyah once again.

The JANA political editor ends his commentary by saying that agents in Ndjamena should understand that their provocations against the Jamihiriyah and their blind obedience to their white, racist, Yankee masters will inevitably lead them to an untimely end.

Oil Official Says Proposals Submitted to OPEC

LD211853 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli 21 November, JANA—A responsible source at the National Oil Company has said that the Great Jamahiriyah submitted practical proposals to the OPEC delegation during its recent visit here, proposals intended to preserve the organization's unity and the gains it has made.

The source added that the Jamahiriyah supports the organization's efforts to ensure the stability of the oil market and reinforce oil prices and that it (the Jamahiriyah) spared no effort to achieve unity and solidarity within the organization to serve the common goals and interests of its peoples.

The source also indicated that the Great Jamahiriyah was totally committed to the organization's decisions on production quotas and the prices fixed by the organization.

The source called on all member states in the organization to assume their responsibilities to preserve their peoples' interests and guarantee the organization's future and efficiency.

It is worth mentioning that an OPEC commission is visiting the member states to examine ways to tackle the problems facing the organization.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Pays Short Visit

LD211754 Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 21, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—Mahmoud al-Mestiri, the Tunisian foreign minister, this morning arrived in Tunisia on a visit to great Jamahiriya. The Tunisian foreign minister was welcomed at Tripoli international airport by Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, the secretary of the People's Committee for the People' Foreign Liaison Bureau, and 'Abd al-Ati al-Ubaydi, the delegate of Great Jamahiriyah to the League of the Arab states.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD211923 Tripoli JANA in English 1448 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 21, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The leader of the revolution has received Mahmoud al-Mestiri, the foreign minister of Tunisia, who delivered to him a letter from Zine EL Abidine Ben Ali, the president of the Republic of Tunisia.

Departs 21 Nov

LD211928 Tripoli JANA in English 1855 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 21, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The Tunisian foreign minister, Mahmound al-Mestiri, left Tripoli this evening after a short visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

USSR's Volkogonov, Delegation Depart 21 Nov

LD221127 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Nov (JANA)—Dmitriy Volkogonov, deputy chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, and members of his delegation left Tripoli yesterday evening at the end of their visit to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Mauritania

Foreign Minister Returns from Amman, Kuwait

LD220026 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, CMSN member and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, returned to Nouakchott this evening after a tour during which he represented the chairman of the CMNS and the head of state at the emergency Arab summit held in Amman recently. He also submitted a personal letter from the head of state to his Austrian counterpart.

During this tour, his excellency the minister paid an official visit to Kuwait at the invitation of his Kuwaiti counterpart. His excellency the minister said he had handed to his highness the amir of Kuwait a message from the head of state in which the latter expressed to him the Mauritanian people's solidarity with the brotherly Kuwaiti people.

Sudan

Formation of Government 'Indefinitely' Delayed

JN211028 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, Nov. 21, (SUNA)—The ruling Al-Ummah and the Democratic Union Parties have agreed to delay indefinitely the formation of the new government, the daily "*Al-Sudan*" issued here today reported. "The delay aims at completing consultation and reaching a formula on the differences between the two parties" the daily said without mentioning the differences between the coalized parties.

Ghabush 'Suspended' as Leader of SNP

JN231010 Khartoum SUNA in English 0916 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum Nov 23 (SUNA)—Reverend Philip 'Abbas Ghabush president of the Sudanese National Party SNP has been suspended as president of the party according to a statement issued here by a new (SNP) leadership Sunday.

The interim leadership said in its statement that Father Ghabush had practised a dictatorship that led to disintegration of the party.

It added that the former (SNP) president used to take decisions without consulting different bodies of the party.

The statement said the interim leadership would not recognize the disbanding of the Politburo of which this leadership is formed.

The new leadership will continue to run the party's affairs till the convening of the party's constituent congress the statement said. Adding that it will confirm its voice to all agreements which concluded between the former leadership and any other party. [sentence as received]

The statement asked all those concerned to address and contact the new leadership in any matter connected with the SNP.

Father Philip has recently disbanded the party's Politburo, the national capital committees and the parliamentary group.

Anyanya-II on Failed Merger Talks With SPLA

JN211557 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Nairobi, 21 Nov (SUNA)—The Anyanya-II movement has revealed that its meeting with the SPLA in the Ethiopian town of Gambela from 11-[figure indistinct] October was deadlocked.

In a statement issued from its headquarters in Fandanianq [name as received] in southern Sudan, Anyanya-II said the SPLA had attended the meeting on certain conditions, including the merger of both movements under the chairmanship of John Garang. The conditions also stipulated that the higher command should include equal numbers from both parties, that Anyanya-II would be given an equal share of all aid to the SPLA, and that Anyanya-II would operate in the whole Upper Nile

Province. However, Anyanya-II rejected all the conditions set by the John Garang group, due to differences over the first and fifth conditions that stipulate the merger of both movements. [sentence as received]

Johnny Jok, the Anyanya-II representative in Nairobi, explained that his movement believes that John Garang should resign from the SPLA command prior to any agreement between the two parties. [Words indistinct] direct responsibility for the current dispute between the two movements. Anyanya-II also believes that the two movements should be dissolved, that their new leadership should be elected by known democratic methods, and that the new movement should be given the name of either of the two movements or a new name. The Anyanya-II statement also reported other differences with the Garang group. It said the SPLA manifesto describes Anyanya-II as a reactionary movement and that this manifesto is based on socialist principles that Anyanya-II has no faith in.

The statement, signed on [figure indistinct] November, also noted that Anyanya-II asked the SPLA to cease fire, to attend the constitutional conference, and to allow relief supplies to enter drought-stricken areas in the south.

Huth Luwak represented Anyanya-II at the meeting. Representatives of the SPLA included William Niyon, Arok Thon, and later John Garang.

In another development, Anyanya-II warned the Garang group against attacking the ships that will carry relief supplies from Kusti to the southern region in the next few days. Anyanya-II threatened that if these ships are attacked, according to the available information, it will then deal with this situation strongly and decisively.

Jordan Said To Promises Arms Worth $30 Million

JN211057 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1014 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Nov (SUNA)—His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan recently promised urgent shipments of $30 million worth of arms to the Sudanese Armed Forces, according to today's edition of *Al-Adwa'*. The newspaper cited its own sources and stated that this pledge was made during a meeting between King Husayn and Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, at the recent extraordinary Arab summit in Amman.

Ethiopian Shelling of Kurmuk Town Protested

JN221229 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Nov (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Ma'mun Sanadah summoned the Ethiopian charge d'affaires yesterday and informed him of Sudan's protest against the shelling of Kurmuk town, located on the Sudanese-Ethiopian border, from Ethiopian territory. He then asked for an explanation from the Ethiopian Government.

In a statement to reporters, the foreign minister noted that the Ethiopian charge d'affaires promised to convey Sudan's verbal message to his government. Meanwhile, the Ethiopian diplomat denied that his country had participated in the events in Kurmuk. He said that Ethiopia does not interfere in Sudan's internal affairs and that it instead wants Sudan to solve its own problems without interference by any side. The charge d'affaires also informed Sanadah that a message to this effect had been sent to Sudan through its embassy in Addis Ababa.

Sanadah then said he informed the charge d'affaires that Sudan believes what took place in Kurmuk was beyond the capability of the SPLM. This is because the SPLA does not possess the weapons involved in that battle. In addition to this, the evacuation of Ethiopian Kurmuk took place before the Sudanese portion of Kurmuk was shelled. The government also believes that some of those captured are Ethiopians.

Sanadah said that Ethiopia has motives for aggression since it believes that the Aromo [name as received] tribes, which are fighting the Ethiopian Government, receive supplies from inside Sudanese territory. Sanadah denied that they receive such good.

Sanadah stated that Sudan does not want the situation to escalate. However, it will not remain silent over the occupation of Kurmuk. He noted that he told the Ethiopian charge d'affaires of Sudan's hope that the two countries would adhere to the policy of good-neighborly relations and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. Sudan also believes that relations between the two countries are being further strengthened, especially following the recent message of Ethiopian President Mengistu to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Kurmuk was exposed to artillery and missile shelling from Ethiopian territory in the middle of this month. This required its evacuation.

Army Head Briefs State Council on Operations

JN221855 Khartoum SUNA in English 1713 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 22 (SUNA)—Commander of the People Armed Forces Gen. Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil briefed the Council of the State on the security situation in the country in general and situation in the military operations areas in Equatoria, Bahr al-Ghazal, Upper Nile and Al-Damazin in particular.

Gen. al-Fadil said he also acquainted the supreme [as received] and members of the Council of the State with the measures taken so far by the Armed Forces for restoring Kurmuk town (southern Blue Nile).

Kurmuk town recently came under severe Ethiopian artillery shelling and then held by more than three thousand rebel troops who entered the town after its evacuation from citizens by the Armed Forces.

On the other hand Governor of Kurdufan Region Muhammad 'Ali al-Mardi briefed Chairman of the Council of the State Ahmad al-Mirghani on the efforts being exerted for contining the security situation in the region.

Al-Mardi following the meeting said they also reviewed needs of the regular forces in the region as well as the political situation in general.

Kurdufan region "western Sudan" has recently witnessed waves of rebels attacks and armed looting.

Tunisia

Baccouche on Upgrading Ties With Egypt

NC211455 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1359 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—Egypt's clear stand on what transpired in Tunis was very much appreciated by the Tunisian public, according to Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche. The prime minister stated: Egypt's support and the messages it conveyed to the political leadership left a very good impression on Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and on myself. These statements were made during an interview with the Tunisian prime minister. They will appear in tomorrow's edition of the Egyptian weekly *Uktubar*.

Baccouche said that neither Egypt's stand nor its messages came as a surprise to Tunisians. He stressed that our ties with Egypt and the Egyptians have always been characterized by cordiality, fraternity, and respect.

The Tunisian prime minister disclosed that his country has decided to upgrade its diplomatic ties with Egypt. According to him, the Tunisian representative looking after Tunisia's interests in Cairo will be accorded the rank of ambassador. The prime minister added that a new ambassador to Cairo will also be nominated.

As for the restoration of diplomatic relations between Tunisia and Egypt, Baccouche noted: We will normalize our relations with Egypt at a later date.

The prime minister was then asked whether restoring diplomatic ties would affect the temporary headquartering of the Arab League in Tunisia. He replied that the two issues are not linked.

When asked about reports from Tunisia that entry visas will no longer be required for travel between Tunis and Cairo, the Tunisian prime minister answered: Our relations with Egypt are excellent, and there are no problems between us.

Baccouche also discussed a renewal of relations with Libya by declaring: Our relations with Libya are still in the stage of finding a basis for normalization and for a restoration of diplomatic ties. He noted that the psychological differences between Tunisia and Libya are great and that time is needed for wounds to heal and ties to be normalized.

As for the stand of the new Tunisian leaders toward the PLO, Baccouche reiterated his country's support for the PLO, under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat. He renewed Tunisia's offers to host the PLO leaders and stated that they are welcome to reside in Tunisia.

The Tunisian prime minister denied that the treatment accorded to former President Bourguiba was inspired by foreign countries. He said: We are all faithful to Bourguiba and will never forget him. He is the hero of independence. He forged the modern Tunisian state.

Mestiri Informs Ben Ali About Visit to Libya

LD212311 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] This evening Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic, along with Hedi Baccouche, prime minister, received a report from Mahmoud Mestiri, minister of foreign affairs, at the Republican Palce in Carthage. The report concerned the results of the foreign minister's visit to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, a visit that the head of state entrusted him with.

This mission is part of the new dynamics characterizing Tunisian policy, in accordance with the 7 November statement. This mission was also an opportunity for dialogue on bilateral relations and the situation in the greater Maghreb in particular and in the Arab world in general.

Mr Mahmoud Mestiri delivered to Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali greetings and respect from the leader of the Libyan revolution. The foreign minister had been ordered by His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to travel to Tripoli, where he was received by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, this afternoon.

Coup Attempt, Bourguiba Relapse Rumors Denied

PM231007 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Nov 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Tunisian Sources Deny Rumors Circulated Yesterday: Armed Plot To Assassinate Zine Foiled; Bourguiba Taken to Hospital After Relapse"]

[Excerpts] Tunis—High-level Tunisian sources yesterday denied reports that five top officials in the government of former President Habib Bourguiba were referred to a military court for questioning on a number of charges. The most serious of these charges was a plan to assassinate the new president, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali,

and then blame the Islamic Tendency Movement for this act. Another violation were large quantities of weapons, smuggled from Lebanon, discovered yesterday evening at the homes of some of these officials. They include former Destourian Party director Mahjoub Ben Ali.

The main people mentioned as involved include Mohamed Sayah, former minister of education; Mansour Skhiri, former minister of transportation; Major General Hedi Nouaman, Air Force chief of staff; and Mahmoud Belhissine, one of the top advisers of President Bourguiba and Mahjub Ben Ali. It has been said that the number of those arrested yesterday evening—from among their followers—has reached 70 detainees, all of whom will be tried with attempting to assassinate the president of the Republic.

Sources in Tunis described this story as a rumor stemming from a previous rumor which accompanied the changes. Sources said that this group intended to get rid of Zine El Abidine by killing him when he was prime minister, and that they were planning to carry this out on Arbor Day—Sunday, 8 November. [passage omitted]

These sources also denied another rumor circulating in Tunis yesterday to the effect that Bourguiba was taken to the hospital after his health had deteriorated. They instead emphasized that the former president is in good health and that he has received a number of visitors, including Habib Bourguiba, Jr, at his La Mornighia residence. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Communique Says Morocco Responsible for War

LD221826 Algiers APS in English 1336 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] SADR (L.T.) 22/11,87 (APS)—"By refusing direct negotiations and by carrying on the illegal occupation of a part of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), the Morocco's Kingdom is the only responsible of the war," a communique from the Saharan Ministry of Information indicated. Commenting on the mission of the OAU/UN Technical Commission in Western Sahara, the communique denounces "the Moroccan mystifying attempts aiming at expanding untruths and at distorting the objectives of this mission. [no end quotes as received]

The communique quoted some of these untruths among which "the Moroccan control of the ground and the non-existence of combats in order to minimize the value of the cease-fire so as to go beyond it and give another meaning to the last SPLA [as received] battle, ie, the counter-offensive led by the Saharan combatants. [no end quotes as received]

Before the "Moroccan allegations," the communique recalled that "the Saharan Government has neither signed a cease-fire nor declared a truce, due to the absence of minimal conditions for this purpose (the pursue of the aggression and refusal of dialogue by the Moroccan Government). [no end quotes as received]

"The Saharan Government, the communique stressed, engaged in cooperation with the UN and grant all the facilities to the technical commission and ensure security in war, under the conditions the commission is undertaking its mission."

Regarding the declaration of the spokesman of the US State Department, "the Saharan Government, the communique indicated, is sharing with the USA and any other side the conviction that there is no solution to war in Western Sahara, opposing the Morocco Kingdom to the Polisario front, than the political solution."

'Oppressive Measures' Noted

LD221513 Algiers APS in Arabic 1447 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Liberated Territories, 22 Nov (APS)—A statement issued today, Sunday, by the Saharan Ministry of Information states that the Moroccan colonialist authorities have intensified their oppressive measures in the occupied territories against Saharan nationals.

The statement says that in preparation for the visit of the UN and the OAU technical commission to the region, the Moroccan colonialist authorities are currently conducting house searches, imprisoning Saharan citizens in particular, distributing Saharan traditional dresses to the Moroccan colonialists, and deploying the police force along major avenues of the occupied cities.

The statement points out that these measures take the form of the delaying of the technical commission to Laayoune by 1 and 1/2 days so as to complete the oppressive measures by the police, which the Moroccan interior minister describes as "organization measures."

UN Delegation Arrives To Inspect Camps

LD201956 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Excerpt] The UN technical commission in charge of investigating the conditions of Saharan citizens in Moroccan camps arrived this afternoon in Fes. The group consists of 15 experts in the areas of peace and security and is led by 'Abd al-Rahim Farah, assistant secretary general in charge of special political questions, regional cooperation, and decolonization. The delegation was expected to arrive today in Laayoune in the Saharan Republic. [passage omitted]

Inter-Gulf Affairs

6th GCC Defense Ministers Meeting Held

Ministers Arrive

JN211919 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0855 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 21 Nov (WAKH)—The defense ministers of the GCC states have arrived in Abu Dhabi to participate in the sixth meeting of the GCC defense ministers. Talks will begin today in Abu Dhabi under the chairmanship of UAE Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid Al-Maktum.

Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim arrived in Abu Dhabi today at the head of Kuwait's delegation to the meeting. His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Defense Force, then arrived at the head of his country's delegation to the talks. [passage omitted]

His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister; Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; and Al-Mutasim ibn Hamud Al Bu Sa'id, Omani minister of state for defense affairs, also arrived to attend the meeting.

The GCC defense ministers were received by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid Al-Maktum; Brigadier General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, the chief of staff; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Zayid, commander of the Air Force; and 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary general of the GCC.

Talks Open

LD211740 Kuwait KUNA in English 1617 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 21 (KUNA)—Defense ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council Saturday opened two days of talks to discuss joint defense matters against the backdrop of the Iran-Iraq war in the backyard.

Chairman of the meeting, Defense Minister of the United Arab Emirates Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid Al-Maktum said the conference acquired additional importance from the fact that it coincides with "delicate" military developments in the Gulf region.

This, he told the opening session, necessitates that the six GCC members "double their efforts and work seriously" in a collective spirit, chiefly in coordinating joint action in areas of "defense and security."

He indicated that this was the best way for GCC countries to safeguard their independence, sovereignty and stability.

Al-Maktum said the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war and the acceleration of its developments constitute a threat not only to stability of the region but also to world peace.

Such a threat, he said, underlines the need for concerted international action to halt the war by implementing Security Council Resolution 598 which ordered an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf conflict.

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah told the meeting the main agenda item of the meeting is assessment of the GCC defense capabilities in light of the latest developments.

Recommendations of GCC army chiefs of staff for strengthening integration and coordination in military areas will also be in the limelight, he added.

Bisharah, however, noted that the GCC six members had already made wide steps in that direction.

He said many were watching this conference "because the voice of the Council reaches world capitals which monitor your steps and their impact on developments in the region."

The GCC secretary general noted that the Gulf region is of particular importance to world economies and international political equilibrium.

Some ramifications of the Gulf war involving nonbelligerent GCC members have been handled from the Council's point of view and tradition, he said but did not elaborate.

He said that the Gulf countries should continue to exercise the same wisdom that had helped them contain the Iran-Iraq war within its scope in the past seven years.

"Anger must not drag us to a dilemma," he said, referring to repeated GCC countries' efforts to defuse tension in the region and not to provoke Iran.

The ministers will later tonight be the guests of the UAE Armed Forces deputy supreme commander at a dinner banquet. They will hold a closed session Sunday morning and finalize recommendations and resolutions in another round in the afternoon.

2d Working Session Concludes

JN221432 Doha QNA in Arabic 1355 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Nov (QNA)—Today their highnesses and excellencies the defense ministers of the GCC member states ended their second working session, which lasted 5 hours. The session was chaired by His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid Al-Maktum, minister of defense.

Responsible sources in Abu Dhabi told QNA that the ministers discussed issues pertaining to coordination and cooperation among member states on military and defense issues. This is in light of the recommendations approved by the chiefs of staff during their recent meeting in Riyadh. They also discussed steps to implement the military strategy endorsed by the GCC leaders at their Muscat summit in 1985.

The sources added that the joint defense strategy of the GCC member states is based on the principle of developing and modernizing their military resources, and on bolstering joint defensive action to guarantee the safety and security of the regional states and peoples. This is also an integral part of pan-Arab security.

The sources added that accelerating regional developments, with their accompanying growing dangers, require member states to more quickly strengthen their inherent capabilities. This improvement will enable them to rely on these to protect their sovereignty, territory, and stability.

The ministers will hold their closing session this evening to approve agreements and to announce the final statement of the meeting. This is so recommendations of the ministers can be submitted to the GCC summit, which is scheduled to be held in Riyadh on 26 December.

Statement Issued

JN221635 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 21 (QNA)—Defence ministers of the Cooperation Council of the Arab Gulf states (GCC) concluded their talks here today with a call for enhancing defence cooperation among their countries.

A statement issued at the end of the two-day meeting said the ministers discussed the Gulf situation and the recent escalation that threatens peace and security in the world at large.

The statement said the ministers stressed the importance of the decisions of the previous GCC summits which stress that the GCC security is inseparable and that any threat against a member state is considered a threat against all members. The ministers decided to enhance defence cooperation to ensure collective action in the face of threats against their security in the framework of the GCC joint defence strategy, the statement said.

They approved recommendations of the military committees and the meeting of the GCC chiefs of staff and decided to instruct the GCC military committee to follow up their implementation, it added.

The ministers said they would present their recommendations to the coming GCC summit due to be held in Riyadh on December 26.

They decided to step up their contacts in light of the delicate circumstances in the region.

Iranian Strikes Against Shipping Continue

Greek Vessel Attacked

NC211515 Paris AFP in English 1508 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Manama, Nov 21 (AFP)—A Greek freighter, the "*Jimilta*," was attacked Saturday afternoon near the Iranian island of Farsi in the central Gulf, regional shipping sources said.

The 29,018 deadweight ton "*Jimilta*," belonging to the Piraeus-based Trader Shipping Company, sent out a distress signal just before 1300 GMT saying it had been attacked. No damage or injuries were reported.

Shipping sources could not specify whether the attack was launched by high-speed gunboats of the type normally crewed by Iranian Revolutionary Guards militiamen or whether the freighter was subjected to fire from Farsi Island.

The latest attack followed Friday's Iraqi air raid on a tugboat on contract to Iran from the Semco Company. One Filipino was killed and five others injured in the raid on the "*Salvia*" south of Iran's main oil terminal of Khark Island.

The last Iranian attacks were carried out on November 15 and 16 when gunboats attacked three tankers in the southern Gulf, including the U.S.-owned "*Esso Freeport*."

Greek Tanker Struck Off UAE

JN220626 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] According to an urgent report we received a short while ago, Iranian speedboats have attacked the Greek oil tanker *Andromeda* in the southern Gulf, off Jabal 'Ali on the UAE coast. The attack caused no casualties, while material damage is not yet known.

Another Greek oil tanker was also attacked yesterday afternoon in the Gulf near Iran's Farsi Island. According to preliminary information obtained by the Greek Ministry of Merchant Marine, the vessel was shelled from Farsi Island and then was attacked an Iranian speedboat. The Greek oil tanker suffered no significant material damage and none of its crew was injured.

Panamanian Cargo Ship Attacked

JN231013 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] According to shipping sources in the Gulf, Iranian speedboats attacked a Panamanian-flagged cargo vessel this morning. Contact with the ship was lost after it broadcast SOS messages.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister, Soviet Envoy Discuss Gulf War

LD211430 Kuwait KUNA in English 1258 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 21 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier, Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Saturday conferred with Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverev on the situation in the Gulf region and Moscow's stance on threats and aggressions against Kuwait.

Shaykh Sabah told reporters after the meeting which was requested by the Foreign Ministry that he and the Soviet ambassador discussed a recent report by the official Soviet *Pravda* newspaper on the Gulf war.

The talks also touched on statements by Soviet officials sounding the Soviet Union's support for Kuwait against aggressions that endangers its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Shaykh Sabah added that he discussed with Zverev the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which called for an immediate ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

Reports suggesting that the Soviet Union was taking a position which would block implementation of the Security Council resolution came under focus during the talks, Shaykh Sabah said.

The Soviet ambassador, however, reiterated his country's support for full implementation of the resolution and for any subsequent move that could help halt the Iran-Iraq war, the Kuwaiti deputy premier and foreign minister added.

PDRY

President Meets With YAR Oil Minister

EA202311 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, today at noon received Brother Ahmad Al-Muhani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources in the northern part of the homeland. Al-Muhani and Brother Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy prime minister, and minister of petroleum and minerals [title as heard], briefed the brother chairman of the Presidium on the progress of talks between the two parts concerning cooperation in oil and mineral exploration. The sides also discussed a number of issues pertaining to developing unionist coordination between the two parts of the Yemeni homeland and ways of strengthening and coordinating stances on local, Arab, and international issues.

Brother Haydar Abu Bakr Al-'Attas entrusted Brother Ahmad al-Muhani with a message for Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland. [passage omitted]

ANA has learned that talks are under way between the ministries of petroleum and minerals in the two parts of the Yemeni homeland on establishing a joint project for oil exploration in joint terrains. This will be part of the unionist efforts by the leaders of the two parts to exploit oil resources to benefit the Yemeni people and their development [words indistinct].

Saudi Arabia

JANE'S Report on French Mirages Denied

LD220027 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2320 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Al-Madinah, 21 Nov (SPA)—In response to a report published this morning, Saturday, in the 21 November 1987 issue of *Jane's Defence Weekly* magazine stating that the Bassault-Breguet Company had hired the services of an unofficial Saudi adviser to help sell Mirage-4000 aircraft to the Kingdom, and so on and so forth, an official source has categorically told SPA that all information reported by this publication on this matter is untrue. The source added that the Kingdom, while vigorously denying this report, wishes to make the following points clear:

1. There are no unofficial advisers at the court of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

2. No contract has been concluded between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Dassault-Breguet Company to purchase Mirage aircraft or any other type of equipment.

3. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has more than once declared through various information media its absolute prohibition of any mediation between itself and arms companies and concerns. It has also warned against any middlemen that claim to speak on its behalf in this regard. If the Kingdom wishes to procure arms, it will do so directly from the arms source without the interference of any middlemen, whether Arab or foreign.

The statement by the source concluded: In light of the above information, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia once again reaffirms its strong desire to correct the erroneous report by this magazine. It also affirms its readiness to sue any middleman who speaks on its behalf, should it be established that he benefited in any way from any arms deal. All companies should beware of imposters who do not represent the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Possible USSR-Iran Treaty Seen as 'Strange'

LD230959 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Nov 87

[News and comment by Husayn al-'Askari presented by 'Abdallah al-Shaya']

[Text] The speaker of the Iranian parliament has announced that the ruling regime in Tehran is currently negotiating with the Soviet Union to conclude a joint defense treaty.

It is not strange that the ruling regime in Tehran has resorted to negotiating with the Soviets to conclude a joint defense treaty. However, it is unusual that this request comes from the Tehran rulers, who previously abrogated a similar treaty that had existed between Iran and the Soviet Union since 1921. The Tehran rulers nullified this treaty in 1979 when they took power. They described it as prejudicial to Iran and said that it endangered Iranian independence and interests. They also knew that the former Iranian Government did not benefit from this treaty, which was semistalled. One of the justifications the Tehran regime gave for abrogating the old treaty was that it could not possibly conclude an agreement with the forces of atheism and the Red satans, as Tehran's rulers refer to the Soviet leaders.

The Tehran regime had used a series of adjectives to describe this document. For 8 years the Iranian regime called, and is still calling, the Soviet Union and its leaders all sorts of names. These epithets not only do not agree with public taste, but they are also incompatible with the norms of decent human behavior.

However, the strange thing is that this regime announces it has approached the Soviets and asked them to conclude a new joint defense treaty. Nevertheless, the matter is no longer unusual when one realizes that this behavior is coming from the Tehran rulers, who are no longer able to distinguish between right and wrong and between what is honorable and dishonorable. Things have become confused for them, not just because they have lost their ability to discern matters but also because they have lost their sight. Yesterday's atheistic state and its leaders, the Red satans, have now become friends, to whom hands are extended to conclude a joint defense treaty. However, as the saying goes: If the cause is known, it is no longer a matter of wondering why. The cause is that the Tehran rulers are now faced with a greater feeling of despair and failure, thus putting pressure on them and threatening their existence, due to their incorrect practices. These have pushed them and Iran to the edge of the abyss. After declaring themselves the enemies of the whole world, the only thing left for them was to throw themselves in the lap of anyone who would accept them and protect them, at least psychologically, from the unknown and risky future. The decision of the Tehran rulers to implore the Soviets to conclude a joint defense treaty with them might reclaim the peace of mind they have lost, even if this is only illusory. No matter what the cost of buying this illusion is, the Tehran rulers are prepared to pay it.

United Arab Emirates

'Abdallah Meets With Iran's Velayati at Airport

JN230913 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Nov (WAKH)—The UAE has reiterated its stand calling for ending the Iraq-Iran war. It also urged Iran to respond to the efforts of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to end the conflict and institute peace between the two warring countries. WAM has cited Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, on the contents of his talks this morning with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who stopped over at Abu Dhabi International Airport en route to Tokyo: We exchanged opinions on implementing Security Council Resolution No 598 and sending Iraqi and Iranian envoys to New York to meet with Perez de Cuellar. We also discussed ways of implementing the resolution.

Ramadan Confers With Japanese Official

JN221608 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met today with Takekazu Kuriyama, Japanese Foreign Ministry under secretary and deputy head of the Japanese side on the Iraqi-Japanese joint committee, and his delegation. During the meeting, Ramadan stressed the need for the current meeting of the committee in Baghdad to produce positive results and expand the scope of economic cooperation between the two countries. Ramadan also reviewed the economic situation in Iraq, affirming that Iraq has overcome its difficulties and that its economy will improve this year and strengthen in the near future even if the war continues.

Ramadan reiterated Iraq's peaceful postition, stresssing that Iraq supports the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 without change or amendment. He said that in the 8th year of the war, Iraq's defense capabilities have doubled and that it is always ready to crush any aggression by the Zionist Khomeyniites.

The Japanese official expressed the willingness and readiness of Japanese institutions to expand their activity in Iraq and to promote friendly relations, stressing that Japan trusts that Iraq's future economy will be strong. He added that Japan understands Iraq's circumstances during the war and appreciates its clear-cut peaceful positions.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed ways to expand bilateral economic and trade cooperation. The meeting was attended by the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction under secretary and deputy head of the Iraqi side on the Iraqi-Japanese joint committee and the Japanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Reportage on Attack on Dahuk Hospital

Iranian Claims Refuted

JN201424 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA)—Iraq today refuted Iranian claims that they were not responsible for attacking the public Dahuk Hospital in northern Iraq. In a statement to INA today, an Iraqi military spokesman pointed out that several citizens in the city of Dahuk saw the Iranian flag on the Iranian plane which fled. The spokesman added that Iraq will show newsmen several Iranian missiles that did not explode to prove the Iranian president's lies.

The spokesman said: If the Iranian president claims that Iran did not attack Kurds, then whose guns shelled Al-Sulaymaniyah and Qal'at Dizah and whose plane was downed near the city of 'Aqrah yesterday, despite the fact there are no military units in the city?

The spokesman added: This charlatan seeks to wash off the disgrace which he and his master Khomeyni sustained after their attacks on mosques and civilians in the city of Basrah and on the Balat al-Shuhada' school in Baghdad.

Concluding, the spokesman said: The whole world knows that the ruling gang in Iran is no more than a handful of criminals.

ICRC, WHO Officials Visit

JN201702 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA)—Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], UNICEF, the WHO, and heads of the dentists, pharmacists, and doctors unions and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society have visited Dahuk Hospital. They acquainted themselves with the new crime committed by the Iranian regime against this hospital in which several patients were martyred or wounded.

During their visit, the representatives of the international organizations were briefed by the secretary general of the social affairs department in the autonomous region on the results of the brutal Iranian shelling of the hospital. He also informed them of the dimensions of this crime which proves the Iranian regime's bloody nature and its indiffernce to all human values. The secretary general of the social affairs department pointed out that the Iranian rulers deliberately bombed the hospital.

UN Informed of Bombing

JN201951 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Iraq today informed the United Nations of the Iranian regime's bombing of a civilian hospital in the city of Dahuk. Nine civilians, including 6 women and a child, were martyred, and 64 others were wounded in the incident. In a message conveyed by its permanent UN representative to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, Iraq stressed that by bombing this hospital the Iranian regime added a new crime to the long list of its crimes which violate the basic principles of international and humanitarian laws. The message referred to the Iranian rulers' hostile and expansionist nature.

The message urged the United Nations to condemn this Iranian crime, which confirms that it is the right time to punish the Iranian regime for its rejection of all principles and values governing international relations.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Communique No 2,923

JN201728 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,923 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassioante. Our valiant Armed Forces have continued their brave combat activities against the tyrant Khomeyniites and inflicted on them new losses last night and today as follows:

1. Our heroic Air Force is pursuing its course of destroying the mainstays of aggression and of severing the oil supplies of the Iranian regime, which rejects peace and insists on exploiting its country's resources for aggression against Iraq. At 1020 [0720 GMT] today, our aircraft dealt an accurate and effective hit to a large maritime target off the Iranian coast. Our hawks carried out 82 combat missions against the enemy in the battlefields today. After carrying out these missions, all our planes returned safely to base.

2. Our brave helicopter gunships carried out 38 combat missions against enemy concentrations and gun emplacements, inflicting further losses on the vile aggressors. Our helicopters returned safely to base, God be praised.

3. One of our units in the VII Army Corps sector spotted an infantry group estimated at 60 personnel. It engaged it with various types of weapons, destroyed most of it, and forced the rest to flee. Elsewhere in the same sector, five scoundrels were killed, eight ammunition dumps were blown up, two vehicles, one of them large and loaded with personnel, were destroyed and burned, a gun emplacement was destroyed and its personnel killed, and two shovels [preceding word in English] were destroyed.

4. Six enemy personnel were killed and two machineguns were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Enemy engineering works were attacked and several enemy personnel were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. A machinegun emplacement was destroyed and its personnel killed in the VI Army Corps sector of Tigris.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 November 1987

Qasr-e Shirin Battle Denied

JN211731 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied allegations propagated by Tehran Radio about the occurrence of a battle in Qasr-e Shirin. In a statement to an INA correspondent tonight, the spokesman said: It is another battle fabricated by the Iranian regime. It has not taken place at all. Not even the smallest engagement has occurred between Iraqi forces and the Iranian forces there.

The military spokesman added that this allegation is new evidence that the Iranian regime has lost its mind and made a complete break with reality and facts. The spokesman said it is also new proof that this regime has begun to deal with the Iranian people using unprecedented deception.

The Iraqi military spokesman went on to say: We have become familiar with such allegations. The international public does not believe them. These allegations further confirm the triviality of the Iranian rulers. He challenged the Iranian regime to provide any proof that a battle took place there. He also called on correspondents of news agencies and newspapers to visit the area and ascertain the facts for themselves.

The Iraqi military spokesman concluded his statement by saying: As a matter of fact, we are happy to see such lies propagated by the Iranian regime because they expose its true nature. It is a backward and ignorant regime that propagates lies.

Communique No 2,924

JN211810 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,924 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces inflicted new losses on the aggressors through the performance of their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. The courageous knights of the helicopter gunships carried out 23 combat sorties today, inflicting significant losses in enemy personnel, weapons, and positions. Afterward, they returned safely to base with their helicopter gunships, praise be to God.

2. Two infantry positions were destroyed and the personnel manning them were killed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

3. An enemy gun was destroyed in the II Army Corps Central sector.

4. Two enemy personnel were killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. Three infantry positions and a large vehicle were destroyed in the same sector. A wheeled shovel [preceding word in English] was burned, another was damaged, and an ammunition dump was destroyed in the same sector.

5. An enemy soldier was killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector engaged the enemy troops before them and achieved the following: Two scoundrels killed; two infantry positions and an observation post destroyed; a wheeled shovel [preceding word in English] burned and a similar one damaged; a 105-mm gun destroyed and its crewmen killed; a vehicle burned and destroyed; and an ammunition dump destroyed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 November 1987

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN211927 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1911 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 21 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To prevent the Iranian regime from using the revenues of its oil supplies to serve its aggressive and evil purposes against our country, at 1930 [1630 GMT] tonight the planes of our heroic Air Force launched a successful raid on a large maritime target off the Iranian coast. They dealt it an accurate and effective hit. Our planes then returned safely to base, God be praised.

[Dated] 21 November 1987

Communique No 2,925

JN221725 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,925 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Khomeyniites have committed aggression against our country, ignited war, committed crimes against our peaceful citizens, and directed their missiles at God's mosques, hospitals, and children's schools. The ugliest crime was that committed against the Bilat al-Shuhada' school. In this aggression, many of our beloved sons fell victim.

The Iranian rulers will not escape God's or the Iraqis' punishment. They will be cursed until doomsday. The lofty Iraqis' shells and bullets will take revenge on the tyranical clique in this sacred epic until final victory. God is stronger than they, and those who call for right, freedom, and peace will achieve victory. The following are our units' activities for last night and today:

1. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector dealt effective blows to enemy troop concentrations opposite them, inflicting losses in personnel and equipment. They also achieved the following: two tanks destroyed; five ammunition dumps blown up; two vehicles burned and destroyed and a third damaged; one 106-mm gun and a 2-barrel machinegun destroyed; two scoundrels killed; and two shovels [preceding word in English] destroyed.

2. One enemy soldier was killed, one observation post and one infantry position were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

3. One vehicle carrying ammunition and one heavy machinegun were destroyed and one enemy scoundrel was killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. Four infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were either killed or wounded in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. Two enemy personnel were killed, one SPG-9 gun and one infantry position were destroyed, and enemy engineering efforts were paralyzed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. Our units on the VII Army Corps front killed four enemy personnel, burned one vehicle, destroyed one gun emplacement and one infantry position, and blew up one ammunition dump.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 November 1987

Iranian Brigade Attacked

JN231505 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Nov (INA)—Iraq has rebutted Iranian claims broadcast on Tehran radio that Iraqi forces recently participated in military operations on the Iraqi-Iranian borders near Haj 'Umran in northern Iraq. A military spokesman told INA today that what took place is that the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] attacked the 2d Brigade of the 64th Division near Haj 'Umran on the Iraqi-Iranian border.

The spokesman added that more than 200 were killed and 35 officers and soldiers from the 2d Brigade were captured and safely evacuated to the rear. The spokesman said: The Iraqi forces did not wage any battle. The spokesman said that this is the truth which we put before the Iranian rulers who remained silent or covered up their defeat at the hands of the INLA.

Israel

Shamir Interviewed on Talks With Reagan

TA220737 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the United States by Mikha Friedman and Ilana Dayan in the studio on 22 November—recorded]

[Text] [Friedman] The information reaching Israel says that you and Reagan have agreed that the United States will try to persuade the Soviet Union to work together to summon Israel and Jordan to direct peace talks that would not be through an international conference. Is there really any such agreement?

[Shamir] I would not say we have an agreement here, but rather a very rich imagination. I have not discussed this issue with Reagan at all. I have not discussed it with either the President or the secretary of state. We discussed many issues, but this matter was not mentioned at all.

[Dayan] And is there any bottom line from your talks with them? Is there any new idea for promoting the peace process? I would imagine that this would not be through an international conference.

[Shamir, laughing] Of course we discussed the chances for taking action for the cause of peace. The conclusion is that we should wait for some time now that the Arab summit has ended; we will meet again. I will be here quite soon on an official visit, and we will continue to discuss this at that time. In the meantime, nothing new has been raised: neither the idea of the international conference nor any other idea.

[Dayan] In other words nothing is urgent, if we can interpret what you have said in this way?

[Shamir, laughing] I have aspirations and there is a policy line, but the talks we conducted yesterday in the United States were between two countries which share many goals and working programs in several fields in which we are cooperating in full trust. A great deal of time in the talks was devoted to the Soviet Jewry. Some more time was devoted to an evaluation of the Arab summit, and quite a lot of time was devoted to a briefing I received on the state of the talks on the eve of the summit between the Soviet Union and the United States on global problems.

[Friedman] With your permission, we will briefly return to the matter of the Middle East peace process. In fact, is it true that Reagan hopes this issue will be one of the main topics raised for discussion between him and Gorbachev at their summit at the beginning of next month?

[Shamir] Perhaps he hopes so, but he did not say anything to me about this. I think the aspect of the Middle East issue that is relevant to us is very low on the agenda of the U.S. and Soviet leaders. The disarmament issue stands at the top of the agenda, followed by the issue of human rights and the Persian Gulf. As far as what are called regional problems are concerned, the Afghanistan problem is ahead of us.

[Dayan] As for our regional problem, in the United States you referred to the international conference idea—that idea which has been around for so long—as a stupid way to make peace. Have you found an attentive ear in the U.S. Administration, with Reagan and Shultz, on this?

[Shamir] The international conference issue was not raised in the talks with Reagan and Shultz.

[Friedman] With your permission, we will move on to other issues that were raised in the talks between you and the two officials. Regarding the economic and military aid extended to us by the United States, has the U.S. Administration given you any promise that the current level of aid will be maintained, if not increased?

[Shamir] The administration is standing by this commitment, but we must always bear in mind that this depends more on Congress than on the administration. After all, the United States is currently having problems with its comprehensive budget for next year, and the question of how our aid package will look depends very much on the outcome of the deliberations and decisions regarding the overall budget. I have grounds to believe that our aid will not be hurt.

[Dayan] One more thing, Mr Shamir. There has been a report that the CIA is about to stop or reduce its cooperation with Israel in the wake of our lack of cooperation in the Pollard affair. Can you reassure us on this?

[Shamir] First of all, I have not met with the head of the CIA, and I think you have been having nightmares. There has been nothing of the sort. Nobody has mentioned this; nobody raised this issue.

[Friedman] The emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union: It is no secret that Israel wants direct flights for Jews from Moscow to Lod. The American position on this issue is very important. Have you heard anything new?

[Shamir] Definitely. The key position at this moment is that of the Soviets, of course. There is great interest and sensitivity—this also applies to President Reagan and Secretary Shultz—concerning this issue, which the Americans are putting almost at the top of the international agenda, and I hope that this U.S. effort, which is being made in coordination with us and with our support, will yield results.

[Friedman] But they have not agreed to direct flights, or have they?

[Shamir] No, they are in favor of direct flights, but this, of course, is an issue the United States, and perhaps we, too, will have to discuss with the Soviet Union.

Professes 'Neutrality' in Gulf War

TA220949 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Nov 87 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] Washington—Prime Minister Shamir has assured the Reagan administration that Israel has completely stopped selling military equipment to Iran, according to a senior U.S. official.

Following Shamir's meeting at the White House, the U.S. official told a news briefing that the prime minister had also strongly endorsed U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

Later Friday afternoon, Shamir addressed a large forum of journalists, scholars, diplomats and others at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a pro-Israeli "think tank" here. Afterwards, he answered questions.

Throughout his appearance, he repeatedly condemned "the crazy war" between Iran and Iraq, describing both countries as enemies of Israel. But diplomatic observers suggested that the prime minister was considerably more critical of Iran than of Iraq.

They noted that he went out of his way to endorse the U.S. approach, which clearly has tilted in favour of Iraq. "We strongly support American actions in the Gulf," Shamir pointedly said.

However, he professed Israeli neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war. He said Israel was not involved in the conflict. "I don't see any reason to take the side of one or the other," he said.

Free Passage of Ships to Iraq Allowed

TA201006 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 20 Nov 87 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Israel is allowing the free passage of cargo ships destined for Iraq in the Gulf of Elat area. Cargo ships sailing to 'Aqabah from all over the world pass through the shipping lanes to Elat without any interference from Israel. This is part of the policy of neutrality and support toward Iraq in the Gulf war. Last week's publication in *Hadashot* about the change in Israel's political line toward Iraq is arousing reactions in the Arab world. Two prominent papers, *Al-Ittihad* and Cairo's *Al-Akhbar*, have written that Israel is changing its political direction in the Gulf war, moving toward support for Iraq.

Khalil Warns Against Shamir Negative Response

TA201148 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Nov 87 p A3

[Excerpt] Former Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil met yesterday with Knesset Member 'Uzi Bar'am, Labor Party secretary general. Khalil warned that if Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir gives a negative response and does not accept and carry out the spirit of the letter sent to him by the Egyptian president on the international conference it will have the most negative implications for the regional situation, which could be in renewed danger. This in turn would make things difficult for the peace process.

The two men discussed the peace process in the region. Khalil expressed concern at the Israeli Government positions in view of the resolution by the Arab countries summit and the answer to Mubarak's letter expected from Shamir. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Discusses Strike, Other Issues

TA221546 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] The Cabinet today instructed Ministers David Levi, Yitzhaq Navon, and Moshe Nisim to investigate the possibility of using arbitration to solve the conflict at the Israel Broadcasting Authority [IBA]. The three ministers were given the authority to make a decision on the subject pending the IBA workers' answer on which points would be subject to arbitration. The Cabinet determined that arbitration should in no event exceed the limits set in the public sector wage agreements. This was reported by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel.

Another item on the Cabinet's agenda today was Acting Prime Minister David Levi's report on Prime Minister Shamir's visit to the United States and his talks with President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in today's Cabinet session that he does not expect any cuts in U.S. defense aid to Israel. He said that some Lavi alternatives are being carried out, while others are being planned. Answering Minister Sharon's question, Rabin said that the cost of terminating the Lavi project would be lower than estimated. He said to Sharon: I am telling you, the Lavi is dead; no more talk about the Lavi. He promised to give the Cabinet detailed information within a month regarding execution of the Lavi alternatives. This was reported by our correspondent Yaron Qulas.

The Cabinet today also listened to reports on the situation of Jews in hostile countries and in the Soviet Union.

Gad Arbel's appointment as commissioner of the capital market, insurance, and savings in the Treasury was confirmed by the Cabinet today.

Arab Councils Begin Week-Long Strike

TA231021 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Nov 87 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Shefar'am—Arab councils throughout the country began a week-long strike yesterday in protest against the government's alleged failure to help them pay their debts.

Municipal services in the 48 towns and villages within the Green Line were shut down, including garbage collection.

The council heads threaten to close schools and keep nearly 200,000 schoolchildren at home for three days, starting Wednesday.

On the same day, a car and truck convoy is to come up to Jerusalem, where a demonstration is to be held outside the Interior Ministry.

The demonstration was to have been staged last Monday, but was cancelled at the last minute following pledges of additional funds. The assurances were reportedly given by Interior Ministry officials, the Treasury and 'Amos Gilbo'a, adviser to deputy minister Roni Milo, who holds the Arab affairs portfolio.

They are said to have promised that the government would partially consolidate the debts of 24 of the worst-hit local councils, in addition to increasing regular and development budgets.

The total deficit of all the councils is about NIS [new Israeli shekel] 150 million.

But no money has been forthcoming. Council heads have accused the government of trying to humiliate them with empty promises.

"We are fed up with all the deceit and the government's attitude towards us," said Shefar'am Mayor Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, who is also chairman of the national committee of Arab local councils.

He said the council leaders had the full backing of the residents of their respective towns and villages.

"They support us wholeheartedly, even though they are the ones to suffer directly as a result of the strike," he asserted.

"They are angry because they see the high level of services in Jewish towns and settlements and they feel they deserve the same. Our councils receive only a quarter of the budgets allocated to Jewish local authorities of equivalent size, but now we have no money at all."

No 'Immediate' Deportation for 'Awwad Predicted

TA220946 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Nov 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] The Interior Ministry will not issue an immediate deportation order against Palestinian-American activist Mubarak 'Awwad, who has over-stayed his visa in defiance of a directive to leave, a ministry spokeswoman said last night.

'Awwad yesterday went to a Jerusalem synagogue to promote his cause.

American Embassy and Israeli officials predicted that a decision on 'Awwad's case would be delayed at least until the return of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir from the U.S. on Tuesday, and could be deferred further because of the U.S. pressure and publicity the issue has generated. Shamir is acting interior minister.

"There is no intention of issuing a deportation order. There are no such plans at the moment," said Interior Ministry spokeswoman Tova Elinson. "As of now, we have refused his request for a visa extension and we've passed the ball to his court. We hope that as an advocate of non-violence and observance of the law, he will abide by the law and leave."

Elinson said deportation orders were not always issued immediately against persons who had overstayed their visas. Such orders have been delayed for weeks for various reasons, including requests for time to prepare for departure. If a deportation order is issued, the deportee is immediately jailed, though he can appeal the order to the High Court of Justice.

One well-placed Israeli official predicted that 'Awwad would ultimately not be deported, partly because he was not a major security threat. The official said 'Awwad's case had been mishandled since moves to expel him had not been taken swiftly and discreetly. He said the lack of prompt Israeli action was due in part to the lack of a full-time interior minister, and Shamir's absence. [passage omitted]

Recent Incidents in West Bank Reported

TA201157 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Nov 87 p A8

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Text] During the night of 18 November an improvised remote control bomb was used against a car belonging to a resident of Qiryat Arba', near Halhul, north of Hebron. The car, which had been traveling from Jerusalem to Qiryat Arba', was slightly damaged in the rear. Nobody was hurt.

The bomb was activated with the help of a remote control mechanism similar to the roadside bombs being used in southern Lebanon against IDF forces. Such a modus operandi is quite rare in the West Bank. The search forces who reached the site found that the bomb—a pipe filled with explosive material—had apparently been activated from the roof of a nearby building. A contact for remote control was found on the spot.

The incident increased the bitterness that has affected the residents of Qiryat Arba' and Hebron over the last few days following the series of attacks on their cars on the Jerusalem-Hebron highway and on No 60 Egged buses. Following the incident unknown persons damaged several vehicles belonging to Arab inhabitants of the Al-'Arrub refugee camp. One of the cars belongs to an Arab policeman who lives there. The Judaea District police are now checking whether those attacking vehicles there are Jewish settlers. Over the past week calls have been heard from members of the "committee to guard security on the roads," whose members are supporters of Kakh from Qiryat Arba', to "react sharply" in cases of damage to vehicles belonging to Qiryat Arba' residents.

Yesterday schoolgirls put up a barricade of stones and went out to demonstrate near the Al-Tirah teachers college in Ramallah in protest against the deportation order issued against the Gaza University lecturer 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Awda, who is suspected of having been active in the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip. The security forces dispersed the demonstrators with the aid of teargas.

Eyewitnesses from among the local inhabitants said that IDF soldiers had asked Arab passersby to clear away the barricade of stones. The Arabs were then subjected to a barrage of stones thrown by the demonstrators.

A private car containing tourists was damaged and its windows shattered yesterday near the Al-Jalazun refugee camp.

Over the past few days leaflets from the "nationalist forces in the conquered territories" have been distributed in the West Bank condemning the Camp David agreements and the "reactionary Arab forces" to mark the 10th anniversary of Al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

Palestinians Demonstrate

TA201544 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Nov 87 pp 1, 11

[Exclusive report]

[Text] Gaza—This morning the military appeals committee will look into the rebuttal presented by 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Awda, age 37, a lecturer in the Islamic University whom the authorities decided to deport the day before yesterday.

Yesterday studies were suspended at the Islamic University, and most Gaza Strip schools, in protest against the decision to deport Dr 'Awda. Moreover, pupils in some schools raised placards condemning the iron fist policy as well as deportations.

The commander of the Southern Command had issued the deportation order against Abu 'Awda under the pretext that he is the Islamic Jihad's spiritual guide in the Gaza Strip and in his sermons he called for the adoption of armed struggle to liberate Palestine.

October Price Index Stands at 1.5 Percent

TA151900 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Nov 87

[Text] This morning the Treasury predicted an increase in the Consumer Price Index [CPI] of more than 2.5 percent, but there was a pleasant surprise: only 1.5 percent. What caused this moderate increase? Our economic affairs correspondent Yaron Kulas reports:

The October index reflects expected seasonal price increases in clothing, footwear, and fruit and vegetables. But the surprise came from housing, in which a 5-percent increase in the price of apartments was expected. The forecast was wrong; the increase was only 2.6 percent. Housing contributed only 0.2 percent to the CPI. Food also contributed 0.2 percent, because of price increases of up to 3.5 percent. In fruit and vegetables the average increase was 4 percent: Cucumbers went up in October by 40 percent, melons by 27 percent, squash by 15 percent, and the other vegetables by up to 10 percent. In clothing and footwear the average increase was 7 percent because of the beginning of winter sales.

The October CPI increase of only 1.5 percent is the lowest for that month over the past 17 years. Since the beginning of the year, the CPI reached a cumulative 13 percent. The Central Bureau of Statistics has adjusted the monthly inflation forecast to 1.2 percent. Only two indexes are due before the end of the year, with the adjusted forecast for the overall 1987 CPI being between 15.5 and 16 percent. This is in comparison to 20 percent for last year.

Husayn Reportedly To Visit Iraq, Syria

JN211815 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] It was learned in Amman that King Husayn will visit Damascus and Baghdad within the next 2 days as part of the continuous Jordanian efforts to strengthen the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement which was effected in the recent Amman Arab summit. According to Arab diplomatic sources in Amman, King Husayn wants to speed up the normalization of relations between the two countries. These sources ruled out the possibility that Amman will shortly witness new Syrian-Iraqi meetings. The sources said the Jordanian efforts will henceforth concentrate on facilitating contacts between the two sides, either on the border of the two countries or in Damascus or Baghdad.

Reconciliation Continuing

JN221158 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Nov 87 p 1

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat]

[Text] Amman—The process of reconciliation between Syria and Iraq is "progressing as planned" in the wake of the extraordinary Arab summit conference held in Amman earlier this month, a senior Jordanian official told the *Jordan Times* Saturday. The official, who preferred anonymity, denied press reports earlier this week that the Iraqi and Syrian foreign ministers would soon be meeting in Amman to prepare for a summit between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. However, the official said, "the spirit of Amman" is very much alive and that the situation is "normal," and that "there is nothing wrong" with the reconciliation process.

Reports said Saturday a semi-official Syrian trade delegation was due in the Iraqi capital in a move seen as a further thaw in relations between the two states. The delegation is led by Mr. Badr al-Din al-Shallah, chairman of the Union of Syrian Chambers of Commerce, and includes representatives of Syria's industry, agricultural sector and tourism.

The official, who spoke to the *Jordan Times*, refused to give details on the progress of relations between Damascus and Baghdad, but indicated that satisfactory steps towards rapprochement were taking their "normal course" between the two.

The visit by the Syrian trade delegation to Baghdad is the first such visit since the two countries broke off diplomatic relations in 1979 and closed their common border.

"I am certainly authorised to make this trip," Al- Shallah told AP before his departure from Damascus. "We shall seek ways of resuming trade and expect the visit to last several days," he added.

Before arranging meetings between the presidents of Syria and Iraq on the fringes of the Amman summit, His Majesty King Husayn had brought the two leaders together in Jordan last April.

On the third day of the Amman Arab summit, President Saddam Husayn emerged from a meeting with President al-Asad to declare he was "very satisfied" with the outcome of the summit. Statements by the Iraqi president and his first deputy premier, Taha Yasin Ramadan, indicated that King Husayn, helped by other Arab leaders, had achieved a good measure of success.

Reportage on Visit by Lebanese Prime Minister

Arrives in Amman 21 Nov

JN211942 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Acting Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss arrived in Amman this evening on a visit to Jordan lasting several days. During the visit, he will meet with senior officials. He was received at the airport by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, a number of ministers, the Lebanese ambassador in Amman, and some officials.

Holds Talks With Al-Rifa'i

JN221435 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office this morning Lebanon's acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss in the presence of Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. During the meeting, they discussed the results of the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman, particularly those related to the situation in fraternal Lebanon. Dr al-Huss expressed his profound thanks and appreciation for the stands and efforts of both His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government.

Received by King Husayn

JN221951 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this afternoon received at Al-Nadwah Palace Dr Salim al-Huss, Lebanon's acting prime minister, and head of the Arab economic experts charged with streamlining Arab economic institutions. Dr al-Huss outlined the activities and studies of the Arab experts in modernizing and unifying financial and economic bodies affiliated with the Arab League and in coordinating their operations and enhancing their efficiency.

His Majesty King Husayn, meanwhile, stressed the importance of upgrading the Arab League bodies and supporting them so they can perform effectively to advance Arab interests. His majesty also stressed to Al-Huss that Jordan is interested in the Lebanese issue because of its concern for the territorial integrity and Arabism of the country and the unity of its people. He

called for a pooling of efforts to restore peace to Lebanon. His majesty hoped the spirit of reconciliation and accord that permeated the Amman summit would affect various Lebanese factions seeking national peace and accord.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

Confers With Prince Hasan

JN222029 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] His royal highness the crown prince received the acting Lebanese prime minister for talks on issues of interest to Lebanon and Jordan. Later a number of ministers, as well as the president of the Arab Fund for Economic Development, the resident representative of the UN Program for Development, and the secretary general of the Arab Thought Forum, joined the meeting.

A discussion took place on means of organizing common Arab action and developing a new concept for Arab economic cooperation based on clear-cut priorities to be set for the next stage. Dr al-Huss stressed the need for the availability of a pan-Arab machinery to guide common action within a defined strategy.

Prince Hasan on Need To Solve Lebanese Crisis

NC201409 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal has emphasized that Jordan is seeking solutions to ease the intensity of the economic pressures in Lebanon. He pointed out that preparations are under way to hold a seminar soon in Amman to discuss the question of the Lebanese economy. In an interview with the *Al-Hawadith* magazine, Prince Hasan said that during his regional and international contacts he spares no effort in explaining the necessity of helping Lebanon emerge from its economic crisis by saying that if it deteriorates any further it might affect areas beyond Lebanon and lead to more regional instability.

Al-Masri Comments on Summit Results

JN220952 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 21 Nov 87 pp 16, 17

[By Sulayman Nimr]

[Text] In view of the fact that a Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation had appeared almost impossible, many observers and even ordinary people could not totally believe that the meeting in Amman between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad was a meeting of true reconciliation. Thus, most of the questions posed to King Husayn of Jordan during his press conference following the conclusion of the Amman summit centered on the reconciliation between Iraq and Syria. Although King Husayn emphasized that "the reconciliation is genuine in every sense of the word," yet some statements, which at first denied the reconciliation took place, then reduced its significance, and then were optimistic about it, have raised some doubts.

Consequently we began our interview with Tahir al-Masri, Jordanian foreign minister, official spokesman of the Amman summit, and chairman of the committee responsible for drafting the resolutions, by asking about the Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation and whether the meeting between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad means that differences between the two countries have actually ended. The Jordanian foreign minister replied:

Everyone knows that differences between the two countries are deep and longstanding. Differences have exacerbated so much that it was not easy to bring the Iraqi and Syrian presidents together and immediately resolve their differences. Even when a meeting is held and they are reconciled we must not expect matters on all levels to return to normal. The process of restoring relations between Syria and Iraq to normal will occur in stages. In my judgment the Amman summit opened the road—which was completely closed—between Damascus and Baghdad through the meeting of the two leaders and their agreement to forget the past and turn over a new leaf. What is more important is that they agreed to make every effort to end differences between the two countries.

An indication of that is the ending of media campaigns by the two countries . That is proof of the good intentions of the two Arab leaders. As for the normalization of relations and what that entails politically and with regard to other internal and security matters, that will take place later and its results will be seen in the very near future. Perhaps you will read that diplomatic relations between the two countries were restored in the publication of the next issue of *Al-Mustaqbal* in a week, or let us say 2 weeks from now.

Al-Mustaqbal : Does that mean the Syrian and Iraqi presidents have agreed on subsequent practical steps to consecrate their reconciliation and to end the differences between the two countries.?

Tahir al-Masri: Yes.

Al-Mustaqbal: What are they?

Tahir al-Masri: I cannot reveal that. However, as a journalist who follows events, you can deduce and know what needs to be done to restore relations between the two countries to normal.

Al-Mustaqbal: Is it true that Iraq and Syria will resume diplomatic relations soon, perhaps in 2 weeks?

Tahir al-Masri: Yes. It is customary that the first step in normalizing relations between two countries is to restore diplomatic relations between them. As one who participated in and followed the reconciliation of the two Arab leaders, and from what was said during the meetings between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad following their reconciliation during the summit, one can surmise that the two leaders have good intentions and that the estrangement and coolness that used to exist between them is no more. If you had been present you would have noticed that amity had begun to find its way into the relations between the two leaders.

Al-Mustaqbal: Has Syria agreed to the clauses in the summit's final statement supporting and backing Iraq in defending itself and denouncing Iran's stands? Does that mean a change in the Syrian stand?

Tahir al-Masri: I think that is clear. The summit's final statement includes the collective Arab stands and resolutions on all the topics. The statement was referred to all the foreign ministers. It was discussed and some phrases in it were changed either through addition or deletion when certain delegations expressed some views and made some observations. However, in the end the final statement was approved in the form in which it was read by the Arab League secretary general.

Al-Mustaqbal: However, statements have been made by Syrian officials that the Syrian delegation has not agreed to the clauses condemning Iran.

Tahir al-Masri: I do not wish to contradict the Syrian brothers who said that. However, as chairman of the foreign ministers meeting that was held on the last day of the summit and during which the final text of the resolutions was drafted, the final statement was read and discussed during a reasonable period of time and, in the presence of all the foreign ministers, the final statement was retyped after the amendments that were approved were introduced. The final statement was then referred to the summit and was read by the Arab League secretary general. It was approved by our leaders at the final open session.

Al-Mustaqbal: Was the final statement submitted to the Arab leaders before it was read by the Arab League secretary general?

Tahir al-Masri: No, because the foreign ministers had agreed to it and the foreign ministers were authorized by their leaders to approve the resolutions and the final statement.

Al-Mustaqbal: Are there any resolutions that were agreed upon but have not been announced?

Tahir al-Masri: Not at all. There was nothing of the sort.
Al-Mustaqbal: Libya expressed reservations over the resolutions. Were these reservations on the question of the resumption of relations with Egypt or because there was no mention of the Chadian-Libyan conflict?

Tahir al-Masri: First, the question of the Libyan-Chadian conflict was not discussed. We have heard through the media that there are Libyan reservations and a Libyan objection to the summit's final statement. However, during the meetings and the discussions, Libya did not express any reservations, either verbal or written, on the resolutions. The only thing that the Libyan delegation raised during the meetings was its objection to the resumption of diplomatic relations with Egypt.

Al-Mustaqbal: Does the issuance of the summit resolution stating that each country is free to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt mean that the Baghdad summit resolution on boycotting Egypt and severing relations with it is no longer valid?

Tahir al-Masri: The severance of relations with Egypt did not take place at the Baghdad summit or in accordance with a resolution it issued. This took place as a result of an Arab foreign ministers recommendation after Egypt and Israel began to normalize their relations. As is known and as the summit's final statement mentioned, the question of the resumption of diplomatic realtions between any two Arab countries is an act of sovereignty and no party can impose such a decision on another party.

Al-Mustaqbal: Israel has viewed the summit resolution on relations with Egypt as being an Arab acceptance of the Camp David accords.

Tahir al-Masri: The opposite is true. The resolution on the resumption of relations with Egypt is one of the means to distance Egypt from the Camp David accords because the well-known Israeli objective is to keep Egypt away from the Arab body. Israel does not want Egypt to return to that body. We want Egypt to distance itself from Israel and to come closer to the Arabs. This is one of the reasons we and others put forth during our discussion of the question of Egypt's return. We said: If we want Egypt to distance itself from the Camp David accords and from Israel, let us bring it closer to us and let us move closer to it. From this premise, the Israeli interpretation is false. The future, God willing, will show that the summit resolution on relations with Egypt is an important step on the road to distancing Egypt from Israel.

Al-Mustaqbal: Does this mean Egypt's Arab role will assume larger proportions

Tahir al-Masri: This is true. This is clear because everyone wants Egypt to reassume its Arab role.

Al-Mustaqbal: Do you not think the PLO's proposal on forming a delegation from the Arab summit to visit Washington and Moscow to inform the two superpowers of the collective Arab stand before the Gorbachev-Reagan summit will be more effective?

Tahir al-Masri: Yasir 'Arafat made such a proposal, but the Arab leaders did not discuss it in view of the fact it is impossible to carry out in the short period of time remaining before the Gorbachev-Reagan summit.

Al-Mustaqbal: How then will Washington and Moscow be informed of the Arab stand to enable Arab issues to be taken into consideration at the forthcoming Reagan-Gorbachev summit?

Tahir al-Masri: There are the diplomatic channels. Jordan communicated the Arab summit resolutions to the two superpowers and the other UN Security Council permanent members when I personally met with these countries' ambassadors yesterday, Thursday, 12 November 1987.

Al-Mustaqbal: How will the summit resolution on the Iraqi-Iranian war, particularly its support for UN Security Council Resolution 598, affect the efforts under way to pressure Iran to agree to this resolution and to halt the war?

Tahir al-Masri: Naturally, it will have a great impact, particularly on the stands of countries which hesitate to adopt other measures which go beyond Resolution 598 against a country that rejects this resolution. This collective Arab stand will have a great impact on the Reagan-Gorbachev summit next month and on their discussions of the issues in the region, especially those dealing with the Middle East conflict and the convocation of an international peace conference.

Al-Mustaqbal: It was noticed that the summit resolution on Lebanon was weak, particularly in light of King Husayn's statement that Syria is the principal party concerned in seeking a solution to the Lebanese problem.

Tahir al-Masri: There is a fact which we cannot ignore. The Syrian role is the principal and most influential role in Lebanon. The Lebanese crisis cannot be settled and the attainment of accord among the various Lebanese sides cannot be achieved in isolation of Syria. Lebanon is divided. Conflicting viewpoints and policies exist even within the government and the state. So long as the Lebanese parties do not reach agreement among themselves, it will be difficult for the Arab leaders or the summit conference to assume any role in this respect.

Al-Mustaqbal: It has been said that Gulf countries' stands at the summit were very firm with respect to the issue of the Iranian threats against them and the question of Arab assistance to the confrontation states.

Tahir al-Masri: The Gulf countries' stands on the issues discussed are well known. Two draft resolutions were submitted. The first was by all the GCC countries on the Iranian threats against the Arabian Gulf countries. This draft resolution contained firm and explicit provisions clearly reflecting the official Gulf stand. This resolution was adopted without difficulties, particularly with respect to the support for Kuwait. The second draft resolution was submitted by Saudi Arabia on the seditions by the Iranians in Mecca. This draft resolution was strongly worded and expressed the unanimous Arab stand on these criminal acts and their condemnation, as well as their support for the Saudi stand in tackling these incidents. This draft resolution also supported any measures Saudi Arabia would carry out to prevent such incidents from recurring.

Saudi Arabia played an important role in carrying out Arab reconciliation and achieving Arab accord. The brothers in Saudi Arabia are known for such stands. Saudi Arabia has great political leverage in the Arab arena and used this influence in the Arab summit. His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz played an important role in making this summit a success. It is well known that his highness the Saudi crown prince is the sponsor of Arab reconciliations. His Highness Prince 'Abdallah and the other Gulf leaders supported His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to attain the Arab reconciliations that had taken place.

Envoys To Explain Summit's 'Positive Results'

JN211846 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Jordan will begin a wide diplomatic move in the international arena in the next few days. The move is to explain the positive results of the extraordinary Arab summit, the summit of reconciliation and accord held recently in Amman. It is also intended to brief international circles on the unified Arab stand attained by the summit toward current issues in the Middle East as well as on the summit's achievement of solidarity and unity of the joint stand among Arab countries.

Within the framework of this move, Jordanian envoys will visit a number of world capitals, including capitals of the UN Security Council member states, as well as the Vatican and the headquarters of the OAU in Lusaka and of the Nonaligned Movement in Harare. These envoys will carry messages from His Majesty King Husayn to the leaders of these countries and to the chairmen of international organizations. The messages review the positive results of the summit which affirm Arab unanimity on various Arab issues, particularly on the Iraq-Iran war, the situation in the Arabian Gulf, and the Arab call to Iran to accept UN Security Council Resolution 598 to settle the conflict with Iraq peacefully.

The messages also stress Arab unanimity on the need to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East since it is the only way to achieve a just, lasting, and

comprehensive peace in the region and also to resolve all aspects of the Palestine question. The messages also review other important issues approved by the extraordinary Arab summit conference through a strong consensus which expresses Arab agreement as well as the unified Arab stand on these issues.

Diplomatic Ties With Djibouti Approved

JN230809 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] Amman—*Al-Ra'y*—The Council of Ministers has agreed in principle to establish diplomatic relations with Djibouti on the level of nonresident ambassadors.

Soviet Official on Gulf War, Peace Conference

JN201735 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Amman—Pavel Volkov, minister of motor transportation in the Ukrainian SSR and member of the Ukrainian SSR Spreme Soviet Presidium, has affirmed that the Soviet Union supports His Majesty King Husayn's view projected during the extraorindary summit conference in Amman. This view asserts that the Gulf situation threatens the security of the entire region.

Volkov made his remarks during a reception held by the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society at the Al-Zarq' Comprehensive Secondary School for Boys on the occasion of celebrations on His Majesty King Husayn's birthday. He said that the Arab countries' agreement to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East to be attended by the five permanent Security Council member states is deeply welcomed by the Soviets.

Meeting With PLO Postponed Until December

JN210948 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Nov 87 p 28

[Text] A meeting scheduled to be held the day after tomorrow, Monday, by the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for bolstering the steadfastness of the people in the occupied territory has been postponed until the beginning of next month. [Amman *Sawt al-Sha'b* in Arabic on 21 November, in a 50-word frontpage report, cites an Occupied Territories Affairs Ministry source as saying that the meeting will be held on 13 December]

The subcommittee, which met the day before yesterday, will meet again within the next 2 days to finalize the agenda of the joint committee's next meeting.

Transportation Agreement Signed With Egypt

JN210905 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Nov 87 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T)—Jordan and Egypt have reached an agreement aimed at facilitating the movement of passengers and goods between the two countries, Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakhqan announced here on Thursday. The minister was speaking upon his return from Cairo after concluding meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Transport Committee, which culiminated in the signing of the minutes which provide for the agreement.

The agreement calls for the following measures: reducing the travel fare between Amman and Cairo via the Aqaba-Nuwaybi' land-sea route to JD [Jordanian dinars] 16 from JD 19, exempting vehicles commuting along the land-sea route from paying a $100 freight charge and exempting buses carrying students or young people on trips to either country from 50 per cent of the maritime freight charge. All of these measures are intended to encourage the Jordanians and Egyptians to use this line, the minister said.

Mr. Dakhqan said that the two sides have agreed on full cooperation in providing training to personnel employed in the land and sea transportation business. In addition, the Egyptian side has promised to issue insurance licences valid for two weeks instead of one week to Jordanian trucks at the Nuwaybi' terminal.

According to the minister, both sides agreed to convene a meeting of the transport ministers of Egypt, Iraq and Jordan in Amman on Dec. 1. The meeting will officially announce the establishment of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company, now that all the three governments involved have endorsed the project, Mr. Dakhqan added. The new company, which will be headquartered in Amman, has a capital of $6 million to be shared equally by the three governments.

Central Bank Says Trade Deficit Lower

JN210907 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Economic activity and foreign trade operations conducted by Jordan over the first eight months of 1987 indicate that they brought about a gradual decline in the deficit in the national balance of trade, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Husayn al-Qasim said Friday.

In a statement to the *Jordan News Agency*, Petra, Mr. al-Qasim said statistics on trade and economic activity in the Kingdom over the first eight months of this year show that Jordan's national exports registered a five percent increase over the same period in 1986 to become JD [Jordanian dinars] 149 million. On the other hand, Mr. al-Qasim said Jordanian imports continued to decline. In the first eight months of 1987, imports amounted to JD 520 million, registering a decline of seven percent over the same period in 1986.

The deficit in the balance of trade dropped from JD 594 million last year to nearly JD 371 million in the first eight months of this year and is not expected to exceed JD 520 million by the end of 1987, Mr. al-Qasim said. Mr. al-Qasim attributed the positive developments to sound government policies. He said that in 1987 Jordan

reduced its imports of foodstuffs, live animals by 23 percent, manufactured products by 62.5 percent and there was also a reduction in imports of wood, machines, iron and steel.

At the same time, Jordan increased its exports of chemical products, specially fertilisers and medicine, by nearly 43 percent and manufactured products by 47 percent, Mr. al-Qasim noted.

Hostages To Be Released Before U.S. Elections

NC201239 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Quoting a senior Islamic source in West Beirut, *Reuter* says today that what is happening in this area now constitutes a market for selling the hostages. The source added that all the hostages will be released in return for dollar payments and that their ordeal will end before the U.S. presidential elections in November of next year.

Citing a source close to the Syrian occupation forces, *Reuter* says that the money factor dominates the issue of the hostages. The source expressed his belief that all the foreign hostages, who are still alive, can be secretly bartered for a ransom either through governments or on an unofficial basis.

Expatriate Denies Mediation To Free Hostage

NC230758 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 21 Nov 87 p 10

[Text] We have received the following from Mr 'Ali Hijazi:

It was stated in *Al-Nahar* on 20 November 1987 that I am undertaking efforts to bring about the release of German hostage Rudolf Cordes.

In accordance with the publications law, I would like to point out the following:

1. I am a Lebanese expatriate and a businessman. I do not deal in politics, either directly or indirectly.

2. I am surprised at this report, which I describe as groundless.

Fadlallah Gives Press Interview 21 Nov

Fate of Hostages Viewed

NC211144 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] In a press interview today, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual leader of the pro-Iranian Hizballah, says that the issue of French and other foreign hostages in Lebanon will not be settled except within the framework of the upcoming U.S. and French presidential elections of 1988.

Fadlallah says that the Lebanese, even the most influential of them, have lost control over this issue, which now depends on the bilateral relations between the states exercising pressure in this regard.

Differences in Islamic Rank

NC210828 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has admitted the existence of differences in the so-called Islamic rank. He said that there exists more than one ideological complex which sways this rank, more than one party trait which moves within its course of action, and more than one regional or international force which guides it. Consequently, he added, we do not see a united rank but several individuals who might meet at one place provided that each individual sits alone at a separate table.

Fadlallah reiterated his opposition to the Syrian forces in the southern suburb, saying that what is happening in the suburb represents small problems which occur among people. However, I believe, Fadlallah added, that the groups who have political influence in the suburb must uncover the various gangs there.

Commenting on the camps' war, Fadlallah said that this war will end only if the entire Palestinian question is settled. What has happened in Algiers, he added, was an attempt to freeze the war and not to establish balanced political relations between the Palestinians and their neighbors.

Arab-Israeli Alliance

NC210950 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual leader of Hizballah, has spoken out about an Arab-Israeli alliance against Islam. He said: What is wanted is the destruction of Islam. There is an Israeli-Arab alliance—I do not say it includes all the Arabs, but the pro-U.S. Arabs and their like—that opposes Islam. We must mobilize ourselves spiritually and in terms of security.

Meanwhile, another Hizballah leader Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has commented on Shim'on Peres' statements supporting Arab rulers against the Islamic Iranian revolution. He said: This proves one thing, which is that most of the Arab rulers have been allies of Israel since its inception.

Next President 'CIA Employee'

NC211453 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Excerpts] In an interview published by the Lebanese magazine *Al-Kifah al-'Arabi*, scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that the next [Lebanese] president will be a CIA employee. Therefore, he added, I do not bother myself with this issue. The presidential candidates follow each other [to the United States] to be received by U.S. intelligence officers and low-ranking State Department officials, he noted.

Asked whether he expects a hot winter in the country, as some media have been anticipating, scholar Fadlallah said: I do not expect a hot winter as implied by some media. Such a hot winter would result from tension between East and West Beirut, or within East Beirut itself, or from decisions made by some extremist current—or so they are called—in one of the areas. I believe the military option is no longer a decisive factor in Lebanese political life. Therefore, attempts by those trying to push this option will not succeed. Most of their plans might even be defeated by antiwar psychology now prevailing. Furthermore, I do not believe the situation in East Beirut would permit a hot winter in this area, he added.

In his interview, Fadlallah termed the Amman summit one of collapse for the Arabs. [passage omitted]. He added that the summit ignored the Palestinian issue, stating: We also note that mention of the issue of strategic parity between the Arabs and Israel in the summit resolution was aimed at satisfying the Arab countries that stress the importance of this point, particularly after several Arab countries had withdrawn their commitments to the confrontation lines in light of political positions. [passage omitted]

Leaders of 'Subversive' Networks Revealed

NC211526 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Excerpt] At a news conference today, Joseph al-Jubayli, deputy chief of the Lebanese Forces Security Department, revealed the existence of three subversive networks manipulated by the Syrian subversive triangle: Elie Hubayqah, Hardan, and Al-Dirani. These networks had operated in the eastern areas for the Syrians and Elie Hubayqah.

The first network was manipulated by Hubayqah and a Syrian intelligence officer named Faysal. Its operations had been directed from Zahlah by a man called Abu Ayman. The mission of this network was twofold: to gather information about the Lebanese Forces' security organs and to assassinate its intelligence chief.

The operations of the second network were also directed from Zahlah. Yusuf Mikha'il Nasif, known as Al-Ja'farite, led this network, which also had a twofold mission: to prepare for a naval landing in the liberated areas with Syrian support and to gather information about the Kisrawan Ridges front and to convey this to the Syrians through Hubayqah.

The third network was comprised of 18 individuals who were manipulated by Hubayqah and led from Zahlah by Louis Abu Khalil. [passage omitted]

Network Members Arrested

NC211432 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] At a news conference today, the Lebanese Forces' security organs revealed the arrest of members of three terrorist networks which were asked to carry out operations against the eastern areas and some leaders there. They revealed the means and the pressures used by the Syrians since 15 January 1986 to subdue the free areas as a prelude for hegemony over Lebanon.

Dr Joseph Jubayli, deputy chief of the Lebanese Forces Security Department, said that the Syrian Command gave direct orders to Elie Hubayqah and his group to set up subversive networks to gather information and to assassinate some leaders. Members of these networks included Bari'ah Abu al-Kasam, Samir Zaynun, George al-Tahhan, George Zaynun, Antoine Michel al-Zughbi, Antoine Yusuf Fahd, Raymond Emil Lahhud, Joseph Tubiyah Anton, Anton Tubiyah Anton, George Emil Lahhud, Nadim 'Abbud Abu Rujaylah, Nabil Halim Yunis, Salim Bisharah al-Hashim, Ghassan Hatim Lahhud, Nicola George al-Habr, George Philip al-Habr, Munir Victor Jabbur, Jabbur Ilyas Jabbur, Khalid Najib Karam, and Samuel Khalil al-Habr. According to Dr Jubayli, the primary aims of these networks were:

[Begin recording] 1. To gather political and military information about the free Lebanese areas through the members who live in those areas, particularly those working with the Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese Army.

2. To gather information about the deputies who live in the free areas and to carry out terrorist actions against some of them when necessary and for various reasons.

3. To infiltrate the Lebanese Army and to gather information about its officers and its intelligence directorate through the network members who work within the Army, particularly Master Sergeant Nabil Halim Yunis, who (?worked) at the Intelligence Directorate's Archives Department.

4. To gather information about the Lebanese Forces' intelligence apparatus and to prepare for assassination of its chief by Ghassan Lahhud and his group.

5. To gather information about the security measures around the building housing the security organ in preparation for carrying out a subversive action against it.

6. To prepare for the assassination of Comrade Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces, at the hands of George al-Habr, who worked at the Information Department.

7. To prepare for the assassination of Lebanese Forces commander comrade Dr Samir Ja'ja' by infiltrating the Lebanese Forces' naval force in order to booby-trap and explode his yacht with him on it.

Finally, having discovered all the subversive networks of Hubayqah and the Syrians in our free areas, we realize that new attempts have recently been started to set up new networks manipulated by the Syrian subversive triangle of Elie Hubayqah, As'ad Hardan, and Mustafa al-Dirani. Their aim is to create an environment of collective destruction in our areas as an alternative for the impossibility of carrying out political assassination operations. It is the familiar Syrian (?way) of dealing with all the Lebanese areas since the Syrians' military entry into Lebanon. When they cannot crush the resistance fighters, they strike out at civilians. When they fail [word indistinct] to topple it, they target a civilian monument to express their hatred and barbarism.

The facts which have emerged in the past few days and the security organs' discovery of booby-trapped briefcases and booby-trapped cars dispatched to our areas to kill the innocent is the Syrian response to which we have gotten accustomed. With the help of the people and their vigilance, we will seek to uproot all the new networks and to detain all the agents and criminals to be used in similar actions. The fate of renegades from our areas, foremost among whom is the Syrian agent Elie Habayqah, will not be better than of those who have preceded them along the road of treason, such as Al-Hanash and others. We will continue to carry the cross of resistance, fully aware that our path is full of thorns but our belief in victory is firm, because the free people's will must prevail in the end. [end recording]

Syrians Storm AUB Dorm; Students Protest

NC201821 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, last night at midnight Syrian forces raided students' bedrooms at the West Beirut branch of the American University of Beirut [AUB], beating many of them with rifle butts. Thirty students were wounded; 14 of them were taken to hospital. The Syrians cited the refusal of one student to use the only main gate designed for the students to leave the premises as the reason for their action. The students protested the incident by staging a demonstration on the university campus today. Colonel Munir Ma'luli, head of the Embassies' Protection Unit, intervened to calm the situation

Students Call on Trustees

NC211326 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1045 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] In the wake of the incident that took place on the American University of Beirut campus in West Beirut yesterday, the Phalangist Party's student department has called upon the university's Board of Trustees to reconsider its decision to close the branch of the Medical College in the eastern area and also to promote the school's other medical branches. The department declared that this incident confirms there really is a Syrian plan which seeks to destroy the homeland's foundations and paralyze Lebanese political, economic, and educational life in order to realize its eternal dream of annexing Lebanon.

Sources Name AUB Hospital Bombing Suspect

NC210726 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] The competent security authorities are attaching special importance to the security situation in the wake of new information on the explosions at Beirut International Airport and the American University of Beirut [AUB] Hospital. Investigators have finally identified the full name of the person responsible for the booby-trapped box at AUB Hospital. According to security sources, she is Karimah Shuqayr, a member of a terrorist network in West Beirut. Investigations have proved that Shuqayr had close connections with Thurayya Sahyun, the perpetrator of the airport explosion. This information was corroborated yesterday when the military investigator arrested Sahyun's mother on charges of withholding information.

Meanwhile, investigations will continue today in light of the important information that has been revealed on the two blasts over the past few days. The information confirms that the two criminals were residing the eastern areas and that they had direct connections with one of the key figures there.

Amal, Palestinian Fighting Reported

Clashes East of Sidon

NC211333 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Clashes involving the use of machineguns and rockets are taking place between Amal and Palestinian gunmen in Maghdushah, Al-Shawakir, Maria, Darb al-Sim, and Jabal al-Halib. A Palestinian in 'Ayn al-Hulwah was killed by sniper fire, which also wounded a woman in Al-Miyah Wa Miyah.

Both sides are also trading rocket and machinegun fire in Kar Hatta, Al-Mharbiyah, Al-Mujaydil, Jinsnaya, and Ayn Aldulb.

Violent Clashes in Shatila

NC231103 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1045 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Violent clashes involving the use of rockets are raging between the Amal Movement and Palestinians on the Shatila Camp axes.

Casualties Reported

NC221717 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Regarding the situation in the camps, a security source has informed us that the clashes on the Shatila camp lines have eased, but intermittent sniper fire continues. The clashes erupted suddenly on the camp's lines this morning. It has been reported that five Lebanese Army soldiers and three civilians were wounded, one woman was killed, and a Syrian soldier was also wounded.

PFLP Accuses Amal

NC221217 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] A spokesman for the PFLP in Beirut has stated the following: Amal forces positioned in the Sports City and the neighboring area have been directing sniper fire at the Shatila camp since this morning. The situation escalated at noon when suddenly, and without prior warning, heavy bursts of medium- and heavy-caliber machinegun fire was directed at the camp from Amal positions. The Palestinian gunmen did not respond because of their desire to obstruct the way of those fishing in troubled waters and to maintain the positive atmosphere prevailing between the two parties. According to the statement, the PFLP appealed to the Amal Movement to put an end to these violations which harm Minister Birri's initiative.

SSNP Official Ambushed; Army Accused

NC220721 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] The 'Akkar Department of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP]—the 'Isam al-Mahayri wing, has disclosed that the general executive of the area, Mahmud al-Hasan, has been subjected to an assassination attempt in an ambush on the Al-Halbah-Dayr Dlum road. As is usual in such cases, and in a failed attempt to distract attention from the real struggle within the party and within the so-called pro-Syrian, nationalist ranks, SSNP officials have accused the Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese Army of plotting the assassination attempt and using Army personnel from the north to carry it out. These calumnies constitute a flagrant attempt to justify the harassment over the past several days of Lebanese Army personnel traveling to the north via the checkpoint of the Syrian occupation forces in Al-Madfun.

Israelis, Lahd Agents Besiege Village

NC220610 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] According to reports from the south, the Israeli occupation forces and Lahd agents have besieged the village of Bani Hayyan in the Marj 'Uyun District since Wednesday. The inhabitants of the village are being subjected to the ugliest methods of torture. The Israeli troops arrested citizen Zayna Kamil Jabir and transported her to Al-Khiyam prison.

It has been learned that the forces of the Israeli occupation army and Lahd agents had stormed the village and started interrogating its inhabitants using various methods of torture and terrorism.

Lahd Militiamen Suffer Casualties in Ambush

NC230705 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] According to reports from the south, Islamic resistance fighters laid an ambush near the agent Lahd militia position at Bra'shit on Saturday night. As five agent militiamen were passing in the area, the resistance fighters opened fire, killing or wounding four of them. The fifth fled.

Resistance fighters also detonated an explosive charge near two vehicles belonging to the Israeli occupation forces' intelligence on the Marj 'Uyun-al-Khiyam road. In addition, a resistance group attacked a Lahd militia patrol on the Al-'Ayshiyah-al-Wadi al-Akhdar road, using automatic weapons and rockets. One Lahd militiaman was reportedly wounded.

Egyptian Embassy in Beirut Receives Bomb Threat

NC231539 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Beirut asked the Lebanese security services to tighten security measures around the embassy building and to provide protection for all embassy employees. The request was made after a man telephoned the embassy this afternoon, without giving his name, and threatened that the building would be blown up.

USSR Reportedly Sets Up Listening Station

NC210746 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] The French *L'Express* magazine reports in its latest edition that Soviet experts and technicians are setting up a listening and observation station on Jabal al-Baruk. This will enable themselves and the Syrians to monitor all Israeli movements. The magazine points out that this station will be placed at the disposal of Minister Walid Junblatt's militia and the Syrian forces.

Prime Minister Leaves for Amman 21 Nov

NC211722 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss left for Amman this evening. While there, he will chair meetings of the Arab Economists' Committee, stemming from the extraordinary Arab summit. The committee meetings will start tomorrow evening.

Trade Delegation Reportedly Leaves for Iraq

JN220706 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 NOV 87

[Text] A Syrian trade delegation has left Damascus for Baghdad. Badr al-Din al-Shallah, president of the Syrian Chambers of Commerce Union and head of the Syrian delegation, told AP that the delegation will hold talks with Iraqi Chamber of Commerce officials on ways to resume trade relations between the two countries. The delegation comprises representatives of the industrial, agricultural, and tourist sectors in Syria.

'Source' on Ties With Iraq

PM230931 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Nov 87 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "Official Syrian Source to *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*: Damascus Is Committed to Summit Resolutions and Rejects Iran's Occupation of Arab Territories"]

[Text] London, *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* Bureau—Syria yesterday declared its adherence to the resolutions and results agreed by Arab kings and presidents at the extraordinary summit which ended in Amman last Wednesday. An official source said that Syria is still committed to all charters it signed.

During an interview conducted by *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* from London, the official Syrian source said Syria rejects and indeed condemns Iran's occupation of any Arab territories, whether Iraqi or non-Iraqi, and that the Iranian officials themselves have been notified of this stand. Syria also stressed this at the extraordinary summit.

The source added: The announcement by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' that Syria will continue to maintain a relationship with Tehran is not strange, since many Arab states maintain relations with Tehran. Nevertheless, Syria is ready to send half its Army to defend any Arab territories exposed to the danger of being occupied by any party. Indeed, it is ready to send three-fourths of its Army to defend any particle of Arab soil.

About the meetings held between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, the official Syrian source said that both presidents presented their views of the Gulf war and relations between the two countries, but there were no signs of agreement on any of the fundamental issues.

Asked whether the suspension of media campaigns between the two countries was one of the issues agreed upon, the source added: As long as the other party does not attack us, for our part we will pledge not to stir up any issue. There is no agreement, but this is what is called a fait accompli.

About the possibility of Syrian-Iraqi meetings being held to complete what the two presidents began in Amman, the source said this depends on an improvement in the atmosphere and on progress on fundamental issues over which there are differences. The source added that Damascus began its talks with all concerned clearly convinced of its desire for Arab solidarity and for all fundamental stands strengthening the struggle front against the Zionist enemy.

Khaddam Meets Lebanese Opposition Officials

JN220730 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] In Damascus yesterday, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met with the leaders of the Lebanese opposition, Walid Junblatt, Nabih Birri, and 'Asim Qansuh. They discussed the various political, security, and economic aspects of the Lebanese situation.

According to Amal leader Nabih Birri, the talks centered on the question of the Unification and Liberation Front that was established in July 1987 and from which 'Asim Qansuh, leader of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, recently withdrew. Birri added that the talks dealt with the security situation in West Beirut and Beirut's southern suburb, as well as the implementation of the 11 September 1987 agreement between Amal and the Palestinians on ending the camps war in Lebanon. Birri asserted that meetings with Syrian officials will continue over the next few days.

Yesterday's meeting was the second between Khaddam and Lebanese opposition leaders in 48 hours.

Al-Asad Receives Amal's Birri

JN221453 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement and Lebanese minister of justice, reconstruction, and the south, at 1245 today. Talks centered on the situation in the Lebanese arena.

Al-Shar', Salman on Amman Summit, Iraq

JN221702 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 21 Nov 87 p 18

[Dispatch by Marwan al-Mahayini from Damascus]

[Text] Syria emerged from the extraordinary Amman summit happy with the results, which Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' called constructive and positive. At the same time Syria maintained all its stands on all the issues that came up for discussion at the summit. Syria now feels its attendance at the conference has had positive consequences, which would not have been possible had it stayed away. Foremost among these was the confirmation of the Arab-Israeli dispute as the No 1 concern, over which no other issue has priority.

Regarding the Gulf war, a draft resolution on a boycott and severance of ties with Iran were brushed aside. On that score, the Syrian argument won the day. The Syrians are interested in a de-escalation and territorial containment of the Gulf war, freedom of navigation in the waterways, and a halt to hostilities along the lines of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

In this regard, Minister al-Shar' says: Syria expressed to the Arab brothers disquiet over the deployment of foreign naval forces in the Gulf, arguing that this development has made it even more difficult to enforce the UN Security Council resolution. Al-Shar' noted that the foreign naval forces arrived in the Gulf under the pretext of bringing the war to an end and securing unrestricted navigation. However, adds Al-Shar', the mere presence of these forces has become a problem in itself, heightening tension, compromising free navigation, and increasing attacks on shipping.

Further explaining the Syrian position during and after the summit, Al-Shar' points out that his country did not approve of the condemnation of Iran in the final statement, which the Arab League secretary general read in the last session without first submitting it to the participants.

Why were no objections or reservations expressed?

Information Minister Muhammad Salman says that Syria was just as concerned as the other brothers about accord. For their part, the others had not stuck to draft resolutions that they had wanted passed. They and we settled for what ensures the solidarity of the Arab countries at this juncture. No one at the summit held to what might foster a continuation of estrangement and disunity. Hence the outcome was positive.

What about reconciliation with Iraq?

Minister Salman replies that Syria's assessment of the Gulf war still stands. Syria's stand has undergone no change. Our differences with Iraq concern principle and ideology. Reconciliation takes time. We do not think Iran poses a threat to 1 inch of Arab territory. We are in true solidarity with Kuwait and any other Arab country that is subjected to aggression.

Answering the same question, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' says the Syrian-Iraqi issue is not one of personal sensitivities between two presidents so that reconciliation may take place after just a handshake. He said that the relationship between the two countries has experienced many serious problems. He affirmed that the two presidents met in Jordan last April and that other meetings at lower levels had taken place. He said that the discussions during these meetings have continued to revolve around the war and that the meeting during the summit should not be given more importance than it deserves

Al-Mustaqbal has learned that contacts and efforts to normalize Syrian-Iraqi relations will continue. The first step may be the reopening of the borders this month and the reopening of embassies within 2 months. Media campaigns between the two countries were suspended immediately after the summit.

What about the resumption of relations with Egypt?

Minister al-Shar' replies that Syria has prevented the bestowal of any legality or Arab blessing upon the restoration of relations between any Arab state and Egypt. It has also prevented the adoption of a collective Arab resolution in this regard. We clearly told the brothers who wanted to resume relations with Egypt that such a resumption now will neither serve the interests of Egypt nor the country in question nor the Arab nation. We also told them that Syria realizes more than any other country the loss brought about by Egypt's distance from the Arab nation and its absence as a confrontation state.

Al-Shar' adds that under the Camp David accords, Israel will certainly agree to any military role Egypt may play in the Gulf and here lies the tragedy. Al-Shar' adds that efforts are under way to halt the war, implement the UN Security Council resolution, and withdraw the foreign fleets. He said that Kuwait has expressed the desire to have these fleets leave as soon as possible and that Syria fully supports Kuwait against any aggression against its territory or the territory of any other Arab country. He said: We do not want the fraternal Gulf countries to become involved in a war that is not their quarrel.

What about the relationship with the PLO?

Al-Shar' replies that a dialogue was initiated following previous contacts with the PLO, during which ideas were submitted. We will continue this dialogue, but it is difficult to predict its outcome. He adds: In any case, we always welcome any stand that comes closer to the principled, firm, and constant Syrian line.

What about support for the confrontation states?

Al-Shar' voices his displeasure at the way some Arab media organs have handled this issue and says "commitment among the Arab countries should be a mutual one."

Will the Amman summit resolutions be implemented?

Minister al-Shar' replies that the summit expressed divergent viewpoints and its resolutions came as a compromise solution. Therefore, enthusiasm for the resolutions differs from one party to another and one cannot give a satisfactory answer to this question.

Is the summit resolution on achieving strategic balance with the Zionist enemy an abrogation of the Fes peace plan?

Al-Shar' replies that the Fes plan came under different circumstances and now things are better. Also our battle with the enemy is a protracted one. Strategic balance does not mean we must have one gun for every gun the enemy has. Strategic balance means that all the Arabs stand against the enemy with all their potentialities. Israel also does not want peace or an international peace conference despite the fact that there is consensus for it. This makes it incumbent on us to be strong so that our weakness will not encourage Israel to commit aggression and so Israel will realize that peace is the only option left for it.

What about Lebanon and why did President al-Asad not meet with President al-Jumayyil?

Al-Shar' says: First of all, the summit resolution on Lebanon was positive. They wanted to thank us for our role in Lebanon, but we refused. As for the two presidents' meeting, President al-Jumayyil did not exert efforts in Lebanon for the resumption of the dialogue, which is a Lebanese, Syrian, Arab, and international demand.

Enactment of Amman Summit Resolution Urged

JN231537 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Israeli rulers are very active in the international arena these days. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is in the United States. Shim'on Peres, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, spent several days in Paris and met with French President Mitterrand and a number of French politicians. Their recent statements indicate that despite their reported differences over the solution to the region's problem, Shamir and Peres agree there is a favorable opportunity for Israel to achieve the solution it wants.

Shamir does not conceal his opposition of the idea of an international conference. He also demands direct bilateral negotiations with a certain Arab side. He even announced in Washington that he is at odds with the U.S. Government over the idea of an international conference. He also recalled that the United States had agreed with Israel that direct bilateral negotiations were the best and only way to achieve peace.

The United States, under certain circumstances, signaled its approval of the idea of an international conference as part of tackling the regional issue within the framework of a detente between the two international camps. However, it undermined this approval when it demanded that an international conference be a means of direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab sides.

Shamir's statements in Washington affirm that the United States has no firm policies on the Middle East and that U.S. policies in the Middle East are in the hands of the Israeli rulers. The also confirm that although the United States contributes to the continued existence of Israel, it is influenced by Israel instead of influencing it and convincing it of the U.S. point of view.

The Washington rulers' position on the isuse of an international conference reminds us of their position on the U.S.-USSR statement on the Middle East issued during the era of the Carter Administration. The United States withdrew its signature from the statement only 1 week after signing it, although the cancelled statement included only general principles on a solution to the region's problem in accordance with UN resolutions. The Israeli rulers' rejection of the idea of an international conference indicates their fear that developments in international relations may create favorable conditions for convening an international conference and seeking a solution in accordance with UN resolutions on the Middle East.

The Israeli activity in the international arena reveals the Israeli rulers' fear of the current developments in international relations. At the same time, they also believe that the current Arab situation allows them to make such activities and reject any solution to the region's problem in accordance with the UN Charter and resolutions.

Although the Amman summit conference has made an important resolution on the conflict with the Israeli enemy and stressed the need to achieve strategic parity with the enemy and convene an international conference, the resolution in itself does not constitute pressure on Israel and its allies. Any talk about the priority of the conflict with the Israeli enemy as well as the Arabs' abidance by continuing the conflict does not mean anything if the Arabs continue their divisions, differences, disputes, and conflicts and if the Arabs' energies are not used in the real arena of conflict with the Israeli enemy.

The Amman summit resolution should be enacted to confront the Israeli onslaught aimed at isolating the Arabs in the international arena and imposing solutions conflicting with Arabs' higher interests and the UN resolutions and Charter.

Briefs

People's Assembly Minister Named

Damascus, 22 Nov (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi today issued a decision entrusting Minister of State Ghazi Mustafa with the tasks of minister of state for People's Assembly affairs. [Text] */Damascus SANA in Arabic 1145 GMT 22 Nov 87 JN/*

Afghanistan

Reportage on Visit of Soviet Official

Received by Muhmand

LD202215 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Comrade Niyaz Muhammad Muhmand, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee today received Petr Andreyevich Paskr, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee, and his delegation. Subjects of mutual interest were discussed. According to another report the USSR State Planning Committee delegation also visited the national and ethnographical museums.

Meets With Najibullah

LD211629 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Kabul, 21 Nov (*Bakhtar*)—Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, met this morning at the Central Committee headquarters with Petr Andryvich Paskr, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee, and an accompanying delegation. Topics of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union to Kabul was also present at the meeting.

Cooperation Pact Signed

LD231012 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] This afternoon, Comrade Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, participated in a ceremony marking the signing of the work protocol of the seventh session of the secondary commission for Afghan-Soviet cooperation in planning affairs, which was signed in the headquarters of the Council of Ministers. The protocol was signed for Afghanistan by Mahbullah Koshani, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and head of the DRA State Planning Committee, and for the USSR by Petr Paskar, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee.

Present on the DRA side were a number of the vice chairmen of the DRA Council of Ministers and a number of the ministers and deputy heads of the DRA State Planning Committee. Representing the Soviet Union side were Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union to the DRA; the USSR minister counsellor, economic counsellor, and trade representative to the DRA; other members of the guest delegation; and a number of the staff of the Soviet Embassy in the DRA. According to another report, the guest delegation attended a dinner tonight, which was given in their honor by the DRA Council of Ministers.

Minister of Vocational Education Appointed

LD230515 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] According to a proposal by the DRA Council of Ministers, which has been approved by the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council, Muhammad Esrael (?Rasi) has been appointed minister of technical and vocational education. The minister of technical and vocational education was introduced today to the personnel of that ministry by 'Abdulhamid Mohtat, deputy chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers.

Rebels 'Crushed' in Paktia, Herat Provinces

LD211523 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] According to a report by a *Bakhtar* military correspondent, two extremist groups, who wanted to disturb the peaceful life of the people in the District of Zazi, Paktia Province, and in the District of Kushk, Herat Province, were crushed recently by the Armed Forces at the request of the national reconciliation commissions of those provinces. As a result of these combat operations, a number of the extremists were crushed and 4 terrorists belonging to the extremist groups, 14 various types of weapons, and thousands of shells were captured.

Recent Mujahidin Operations Detailed

Soviet-Kabul Plane Downed

BK201535 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the Afghan mujahidin are reported to have shot down a Soviet-Kabul military aircraft in (Parvar) area of Lowgar Valley on 9 November. They also fired rockets at a security post near (Barq-i Barq) town and set it abiaze after collecting arms and ammunitions from there. In Ghowr Province, the mujahidin attacked military installations at the provincial headquarters of Chaghcharan, killing some Soviet-Kabul troops.

Parvan Security Post Captured

BK220958 Karachi Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have captured a security post near (Charika) in Parvan Province. Soviet-Kabul troops reportedly left the post without any resistance. Four troops were captured along with arms. The mujahidin seized [words indistinct] rifles and

ammunition from the security post. A report from Vardak Province says the mujahidin earlier this month hit the military installation of the provincial headquarters, Medan Saharto, inflicting casualties on the Soviet-Kabul troops.

Offensive Repulsed

BK230849 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have inflicted heavy casualties on the Soviet-Kabul troops and damaged two tanks and an armored vehicle in an encounter at a place in Ghazni Province. They are also reported to have repulsed an offensive by Soviet-Kabul troops [words indistinct] in Takhar Province.

Bangladesh

Ershad Views Possibility of Early Elections

BK201617 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] President Ershad has said that the politics of bombs, anarchy, and the political parties has brought about untold sufferings and miseries for the common man. He was addressing the officers and personnel of the police and ansars [volunteer guards] at Rajarbagh police headquarters in Dhaka today. The president said the working people, like rickshaw pullers, car drivers, and day laborers, are undergoing tremendous economic hardships due to the so-called programs of these political parties. He said the politics of anarchy and indiscipline pursued by these parties is aimed at bringing about personal benefits for their leaders and not for the well-being of the common man. Arson and destruction of public property cannot be described as the politics of development and peace, he added.

The president said if anarchy and indiscipline become the method of changing the government, it would be a tradition for the coming days. The nation cannot afford to do things which are beyond the purview of the Constitution. He said the presidential system of the government was first introduced by the then Awami League government and the system continued during the BNP rule. He said presidential system received popular mandate through a referendum and confidence of the people during the last three presidential elections.

President Ershad said if the present presidential form of government is to be changed, it must be done through constitutional means. He urged those who have been advocating other systems of government to go to the people to seek their mandate, and said after receiving people's verdict they can take steps for changing the system of government. He said his government has received the mandate of the people for 5 years to run the country and not for changing the system of government. If necessary, elections might be given earlier than the schedule through discussions, he added.

He referred to the programs and reforms effected by his government during the last 6 years and said as a result of these steps the quality of lives of the people has improved considerably. The president referred to the steps taken by his government for ensuring the rights of the women in society and said various laws have been enacted for establishing them in an honorable position. President Ershad commended the dutifulness of the police and ansars and said despite many odds they have tried their best to maintain law and order in the society during the last few days. He expressed the confidence that they will continue to discharge their responsibility in safeguarding the life and property of the people in future. The deputy prime minister in charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Prof M.A. Matin, and Inspector General of Police A. R. Khandakar, also spoke on the occasion.

Reportage on Opposition's 48-Hour Strike

Ershad Removal Urged

BK210344 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, the three main opposition alliances comprising 20 political parties have called for a 48-hour hartal [strike] from today. They are demanding the resignation of the Ershad government and the release of all political prisoners.

Yesterday, the opposition alliance organized separate rallies and took out processions in the capital and elsewhere. President Ershad has warned that any anarchy or vandalism will be dealt with firmly.

'Sporadic' Explosions Reported

BK210802 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, incidents of sporadic explosions of handmade bombs have been reported from different parts of the capital, Dhaka, as the opposition-sponsored 48-hour general strike began at 0600 this morning to press for the resignation of the Ershad government. Reports from Dhaka say that four bombs were hurled at paramilitary vans in the city. Another bomb exploded in front of the Secretariat. Opposition activists are picketing in different points in the city.

AFP Details Strike

BK211325 Hong Kong AFP in English 1232 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text) Dhaka, Nov 21 (AFP)—At least 18 people including eight paramilitary personnel and four policemen were injured during opposition-led general strikes Saturday that paralysed the capital Dhaka and other Bangladesh cities, officials and witnesses said.

In southern Faridpur District, six people were injured in clashes between strikers and government supporters, witnesses said.

The 48-hour stoppage, which began early Saturday in the opposition's campaign to force the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to resign, caused widescale disruption to rail, road, air and river communications, official sources admitted.

In Dhaka, strikers lobbed home-made bombs on to a police van in Azimpur District, injuring four policemen, witnesses said.

Another bomb was later thrown at a paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) patrol vehicle at the same spot injuring two personnel, witnesses and correspondents at the scene said. No official confirmation was available.

A railway spokesman here said a train carrying BDR forces was derailed near southeastern Chittagong City early Saturday injuring eight BDR personnel.

Railway sources also reported large-scale disruption to rail communications across the country with tracks and fishplates removed by strike supporters.

In northwestern Sylhet District, an engine and seven carriages were derailed early Saturday but officials could not say if anybody had been injured.

Railway officials also said a mob set fire to a number of railway stations, kidnapped engine drivers and other crew and snapped telecommunication cables.

Officials at Dhaka's Zia International Airport said all domestic flights of Biman Bangladesh Airlines were cancelled Saturday due to "poor load." Biman's only flight was to Calcutta with all other international flights cancelled.

Nearly half a dozen powerful firecrackers were thrown at the heavily-guarded downtown Government Secretariat and other government buildings here, witnesses and reporters on the scene said.

Students formed pickets around the volatile Dhaka University campus and turned back most office workers, some of whom were forced to leave their shirts which were later burnt, witnesses said.

The strike also hit mills and factories in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna which remained closed or partially operated, opposition sources said.

Official sources in Dhaka however claimed about 70 of country's industrial complexes were functioning as normal Saturday.

The latest strike, due to end early Monday, was called by major opposition groups who have united for the first time since Mr Ershad seized power in 1982.

The campaign began November 10 with a "siege" of Dhaka, and opposition leaders, Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wajed, have been under house arrest since the siege began.

The opposition has accused Mr Ershad, 59, of illegally overthrowing an elected civilian government, and clinging to power through rigged presidential and parliamentary elections last year.

According to official figures, six people have died in clashes since the campaign began, but the opposition says up to 18 people were killed when police opened fire on protesters, hundreds injured and several thousand arrested.

Ershad Hears Situation Report

BK221608 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] President Ershad today visited Bangladesh Secretariat and talked to the cabinet secretary and other senior officers. BSS, quoting official sources, says the president was informed that work in the Secretariat has been going on as usual and attendance of officers and employees was 85 percent. According to the agency, he also visited the headquarters of the Bangladesh Chemicals Industries Corporation at Motijhir and found officers and employees working normally. He talked to them and enquired about their welfare.

BSS, quoting a press release, says the acting secretary general of Jatiya Party and jute minister, Mr Zafar Imam, has called upon the opposition parties to go to parliament for discussion or take part in general elections for people's mandate if they want peaceful solution of national problems. He was addressing gathering at Allahwallah building premises at Katail in Dhaka today. He said the opposition parties should join the next general elections which is the constitutional way to change an elected government. Addressing a rally, the minister of state for works, Sheikh Shaidul Islam, called upon the people to uphold the constitutional process and resist anarchy and terrorism.

70 Injured in Continuing Violence

BK221616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, sporadic incidents of violence were reported from the capital on the 2d day of the countrywide general strike. More than 70 people were injured in bomb blasts and gunshots. Clashes between the strikers and those opposed to hartal [strike] occured in Lalbagh, Azimpur, and R.K. Mission Road areas.

The AIR Dhaka correspondent, Sarat Mukherjee, reports that shops and businesses remained closed throughout Bangladesh and roads were empty of civilian traffic. Train services remained disrupted because of removal of fish plates and squatting by demonstrators. Most of the factories across the country were closed and operations at Chittagong and Khulna ports were affected. The liaison committee of the opposition parties sponsoring the strike says the strike will now be extended for another 2 days from tomorrow.

BBC Correspondent Arrested

BK230315 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, normal life continues to be disrupted in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country for the 3d day today because of the hartal [strike] sponsored by three opposition alliances and other parties. Sporadic incidents of violence were reported from different parts of the country yesterday. Over 100 persons were injured. According to Radio Bangladesh, port operations in Chittagong and Mangla remained uninterrupted.

Our Dhaka correspondent reports the government has ordered newspapers not to publish any news or photographs relating to violence and reports about the opposition-sponsored agitation and activities of the law enforcing agencies. A BBC correspondent based in Dhaka was taken into custody early this morning under the special powers act.

More on Newsman's Arrest

BK230443 Hong Kong AFP in English 0408 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 23 (AFP)—Bangladesh has restricted local press coverage of opposition-called strikes and arrested the British Broadcasting Corporation's (BBC) correspondent in the capital, Ataus Samad.

The government's Press Information Department late Sunday telephoned Bangladesh newspapers asking them not to publish certain types of reports or pictures of opposition-called strikes aimed at forcing President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and his government to step down.

No formal written restrictions were issued, and it was not immediately clear what kind of reports were targeted, journalists said.

The Bangladesh Federal Journalist Union (BFUJ) issued a statement condemning the restriction, urging its members and newspaper owners to oppose it as "illegal and undemocratic."

Police entered BBC correspondent Mr. Samad's Dhaka home at about 2 a.m. Monday (200 GMT Sunday) and took him, his wife said. He was immediately sent to Dhaka's central jail under an order detaining him for a month under the 1947 Special Powers Acdt, Mrs. Samad told *Agence France-Presse*, citing police.

The arrest came two days after President Hussain Mohammad Ershad criticised an unnamed foreign broadcasting organisation for "formenting trouble" in Bangladesh. He told police officials here that the company had been "trying to meddle in internal affairs of Bangladesh."

Mr Samad is a veteran journalist here and his detention also coincided with a government restriction late Sunday on Bangladesh's newspapers and other media on publication of news on current anti-government agitations nationwide, called by the opposition parties.

The Bangladesh Overseas Correspondents Association (OCAB) issued a statement condemning the detention of Mr. Samad, a veteran journlist here, and demanded his immediate release.

Moazzam Hussain Appointed Deputy Prime Minister

BK201619 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Shah Moazzam Hussain has been appointed deputy prime minister. This was officially announced in Dhaka today. He will also continue to be the secretary general of the Jatiya Party and in charge of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives.

Leaves for PRC, DPRK

BK201305 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Bangladesh deputy prime minister in charge of local government and cooperatives Shah Moazzam Hussain has left Dhaka for Beijing on the first leg of a two-nation good-will visit to China and North Korea. The deputy prime minister, who is the secretary general of the Jatiya Party, is leading a six-member party delegation. While in Beijing, he will meet the top leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, including Mr Zhao Ziyang, and discuss how to forge close party-to-party cooperation.

In Pyongyang, the deputy prime minister is expected to call on President Kim Il-song and other senior North Korean party and government leaders.

India

Further Reportage on Visit of USSR's Ryzhkov

First Meeting With Gandhi

BK201626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] The visiting Soviet prime minister, Mr Nikolay Ryzhkov, had first round of talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. The two

prime ministers were assisted by senior aides. The Indian side included the minister for human resources development, Mr Narasimha Rao; the finance minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari; the minister of state for civil aviation, Mr Jagdish Tytler; and the two ministers of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh and Mr Eduardo Faleiro.

Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said the two sides met for about 30 minutes before the two prime ministers decided to have separate talks. During their 3-hour discussion Mr Gandhi and Mr Ryzhkov considered international issues, including the situation in the region. The ministers of the two sides met separately while other members of the delegation held separate talks. The ministers of the two countries during their talks lasting about 2 and 1/2 hours reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the decisions of the India-Soviet joint commission. They also considered measures to meet the targets set in the trade plan. They identified specific areas for cooperation in civil aviation and railways and decided to hold further discussion to enhance cooperation. The two sides agreed that to enhance trade there is need to simplify the visa procedures. Their discussions also covered arrangements for Soviet collaboration in the power sector.

Cooperation To Receive New Impetus

BK210653 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have decided to give a fresh impetus to bilateral cooperation. During the talks between the ministers of India and the Soviet Union, the arrangements for Soviet collaboration in the Karnal refinery were discussed. The two sides also agreed on new Soviet credits to the power sector. They identified specific areas of cooperation in civil aviation and railways. They decided to set up new joint ventures following the success of the first joint venture of setting up of a restaurant in Moscow.

To enhance trade, it was felt that there was a need to simplify the visa procedure. An agreement for visa is to be signed. They also considered measures to meet the targets set in trade plan. The ministers of the two sides met separately, while other members of the delegation held separate talks. The visiting Soviet prime minister, Mr Nikolay Ryzhkov, had a first round of talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi yesterday.

Gandhi, Ryzhkov Banquet Speeches

BK210645 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has urged the superpowers to quicken the pace of negotiations on nuclear disarmament. Underlining the need for peaceful coexistence, he said strategies of bloc rivalries based on nuclear deterrence carry no credible assurance of lasting security. Mr Gandhi was speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the Soviet prime minister, Mr Nikolay Ryzhkov, in New Delhi. The prime minister welcomed the beginning of a tangible process toward disarmament and described Moscow's proposals as timely. The ensuing summit between Mr Gorbachev and Mr Reagan will provide the process of disarmament toward removing all nuclear weapons from earth and preventing their extension into space.

Turning to the subcontinent, Mr Gandhi said India is in constant touch with her neighbors to promote regional peace and cooperation. On the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement, he said it is bringing to an end the difficult internal conflict which has afflicted a friendly neighbor.

Mr Gandhi said both Moscow and New Delhi have broken new ground for cooperation in science and technology.

Reciprocating the sentiments, the Soviet prime minister said the task of ensuring world peace has acquired a new significance. Mr Ryzhkov stressed the importance of the Delhi Declaration, which he described as being permeated with a new political thinking. He said the recent accords between India and the Soviet Union have given a new dimension to the many-faceted cooperation between the two countries.

Unveils Lenin Statue at Delhi Park

BK210717 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0630 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] The year-long spectacular Soviet festival begins in New Delhi this evening. Mr Rajiv Gandhi and the Soviet prime minister, Mr Nikolay Ryzhkov, will jointly declare the festival open at a colorful function at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium. From then onward, for a full year, millions and millions in the country will experience the rich and diverse culture of the Soviet people through shows, exhibitions, films, and sports and youth programs. More than 60 cities in the country will witness performances by Soviet artists.

At Nehru Park, the Soviet prime minister, Mr Ryzhkov, unveiled the statue of Lenin this morning to herald the onset of the year-long Soviet festival in India. Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Mrs Sonia Gandhi, the lieutenant governor of Delhi, and dignitaries of both the countries were present. Both the prime ministers recalled the services of the great revolutionary Lenin toward humanity.

Ryzhkov Speech at Festival Ceremony

BK211215 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1048 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Address by Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov at the welcoming ceremony in honor of Soviet delegation to the Festival of the Soviet Union at the President's House in New Delhi—live in Russian with passage by passage translation in English]

[Text] Dear Mr Prime Minister, dear Madame Gandhi, dear Indian friends, comrades: The Soviet Union and India are good friends of long standing. There are many

remarkable pages in the chronicle of relations between our two states. One of those pages, the Festival of India in the USSR was opened last July in Moscow by you, distinguished Prime Minister, together with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. Today, you, Mr Prime Minister, and I are opening the next page here in Delhi—the USSR Festival in India.

These festivals are unusual events in Soviet-Indian relations, since this time they directly bring together the peoples of the Soviet Union and India, rather than diplomats or politicians of the two states. They come together to share generously the treasures of their culture and arts and to get to know each other better. They come together to jointly pave the way into the future, drawing on what is the best in their past and their present.

These roots and age-old traditions nourish the cultures of our two peoples. Herein lies an inexhaustible source for their beneficial effects on society's intellectual development and of its immense creative potential. The culture of every nation is a mirror of its soul and is, therefore, unique. However, every genuinely national culture has a universal element and creates universal values. It is individual national cultures taken together that make up a multicolored spectrum of the world's civilization.

The contemporary period in the development of civilization is marked by a tremendous increase in mankind's intellectual and material potential. Scientific and technological progress has opened up unprecedented opportunities for elevating our civilization to new heights. However, for these opportunities to become reliable and clear-cut prospects, it is essential to improve inter-state relations, remove the danger of annihilation of any single country, or the entire family of men in a nuclear conflagration.

That is why today, as never before in the past, one should be guided (?entirely) by a sense of responsibility for the future of our civilization and by the priorities of universal human values. We are happy that this is exactly the policy the Soviet Union and India have been pursuing. Its most graphic example is the Delhi Declaration setting forth specific ways of building a nuclear free and nonviolent world, a world where each state, every nation would have the right to make their own choice and to ensure that this choice is respected by others.

The Soviet people made their choice in 1917 and the Indian people in 1947. Our festivals commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and 40th anniversary of India's independence. So may these national festivals serve to promote continuously the lofty humanistic ideals of our two great nations. [applause]

Gandhi Speech at Festival Opening

BK211621 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 1240 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Speech by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at the inaugural ceremony of the Festival of the Soviet Union at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi—live]

[Text] Respected Prime Minister of the Soviet Union, Mrs Ryzhkova, distinguished guests, Soviet artists, members of the cabinet, sisters and brothers: The Festival of the Soviet Union is being celebrated in our country starting today. In the history of Indo-Soviet friendship, a new chapter has been added. Just as the Ganges echoes our beautiful traditions, so the Volga also sings the glorious story of the Soviet Union. Today, in a confluence of history, we are going to dedicate another sweet and loving flower of goodwill and friendship at this vast stadium.

The echo of the people's revolution which took place in Russia 70 years ago has reached all the countries of the world. Lenin's thoughts also influenced Jawahar Lal Nehru. Realizing the importance of the experiments that took place in the Soviet Union, the first Progressive Writers Conference was held in Lucknow with the inspiration of Jawahar Lal Nehru, and Munshi Premchand [noted Hindi novelist] became its proponent. When the wave of progress came to our country, the thoughts of writers like Gorkiy, Tolstoy and (Tulganin) and those of thinkers like Lenin began to appear in Indian languages. The new dreams of humanity started to echo in our new literature. The works of great writers like Rabindranath Tagore, Subramania Bharati, Premchand and Shankara Kurup are now available in Russian.

Our relations with the Soviet Union cover various levels. Our political, economic and cultural ties are becoming stronger, thanks to the mutual affection of the people of our two countries. We wanted the people of the Soviet Union and India to see the various aspects of this friendship in a collective form so that our ties could become still deeper. Therefore, the Festival of India was celebrated in the Soviet Union from July onward. Indian artists have presented glimpses of Indian culture in various parts of the Soviet Union. Our artists have left behind there memories of the tinkling of anklets and the rhythm of the veena. At the Festival of the Soviet Union your artists will spread the artistic movements of dance, the colors of painting, and the sounds of your music in our country. Soviet artists are going to various parts of India and they will receive love and affection everywhere.

On behalf of the people of India, I heartily welcome the Soviet leaders and our sisters and brothers. Dobro pozhalovat [welcome].

Opens Exhibition on Lenin

BK221356 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] At a function in New Delhi today, the Soviet prime minister, Mr Ryzhkov, inaugurated an exhibition on Lenin. It depicts the life and achievements of the great leader. The exhibition forms part of the Soviet festival in India, which opened yesterday.

Speaking at the function, the minister for human resource development, Mr Narasimha Rao, said Lenin had a profound impact on India.

The youth program of the festival of USSR also got off to a colorful start at the Talkatora indoor stadium in the capital today. The highlight of the inaugural function was a joint cultural program presented by the young artists of the two countries which included folk dances and other musical items.

Spokesman Regrets Failure of LTTE Response

BK221636 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] India has regretted that the LTTE has not responded positively to New Delhi's gesture ordering the peacekeeping force [PKF] not to fire on its own for 48 hours. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the LTTE is now insisting on a number of unacceptable conditions for laying down its arms. He said the main precondition of the LTTE is returning to the position as on the 9th of October. The spokesman said the government cannot allow the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement to be jeopardized and risk the safety and security of Tamils in Sri Lanka by permitting the LTTE to retain arms and ammunition under the cover of the professed good intentions.

The spokesman said the conviction of the observation flows from the fact that since the signing of the agreement, the LTTE used its weapons to brutally kill fellow Tamils and in the massacre of Sinhalese. He said these killings had spread communal tension and endangered the safety and security of Tamils in other parts of the island. He said India remained committed to the totality of the agreement and again urges the LTTE to hand over arms and participate in the democratic process with faith and courage. Failure to do so will confirm that the LTTE lacks political and moral courage and confidence to face the people of the Northern and Eastern Provinces in a free and fair election.

The spokesman pointed out that the decision ordering the PKF not to fire was taken in response to the belief and conviction of a number of well meaning people that the LTTE wants time to hand over arms and declare its support for the agreement. Among the well-meaning people were Mr Sirignianam, who was one of the nominees of the LTTE for the chief administrator post.

Reacting to the statement purported to have been issued by Mr Prabhakaran stating that the LTTE had laid down most of its arms, the spokesman described it as not only astonishing but blatantly false. He said the fact is that the LTTE only laid down a small portion of its arms and has deliberately chosen to retain a substantial portion of rifles, mortar, machineguns, rocket, and propel launchers, besides grenades, mines and booby traps. He pointed out that the LTTE also continued illegal manufacture of these arms and ammunition in Jaffna even after signing the agreement. He said instead of laying down arms, the LTTE continued to receive weapons from abroad clandestinely via sea.

Meanwhile, our correspondent in Jaffna says the PKF has stepped up its relief and rehabilitation work in the last 2 days. Eighty tons of food grains and medicines were sent to the relief centers in Jaffna, Urumpirai, Madukori, Monippai, and Chavakacheri. Two more ships arrived in Kankesanthurai ports today with 2,000 tons of foodgrain and relief material.

2 'Terrorists' Killed in Punjab 22 Nov

BK230359 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] In Punjab, two terrorists were killed in separate encounters in Amritsar District last night. According to an official spokesman, while one terrorist was killed in Kot Mehtab under Beas police station, the other one was killed near Baath under Tarn Taran police station. A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including a Chinese rifle and an American carbine, were recovered from them.

Meanwhile, the Jullundur police have arrested a hardcore terrorist, Daleep Singh, and recovered over 300,000 rupees and some arms and ammunition from his possession. The recovered money is believed to be a part of 5.7 crore rupees looted from a Ludhiana bank earlier this year. The dreaded terrorist, Harjinder Singh Jinda, arrested by the Delhi police revealed during his interrogation that a substantial amount of the looted money was kept with Daleep Singh. Daleep Singh carried an award of 50,000 rupees on his head.

Strike in Tripura; Congress-I Workers Arrested

BK211002 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] The 12-hour Tripura bundh [strike] has paralyzed normal life in the state today. The call for the bundh was given by the Tripura Pradesh [state] Congress-I Committee in protest against the killing of two Congress-I workers by a security guard of a CPI-M MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] on Thursday.

According to official sources, shops and business establishments remained closed and private vehicles are off the road. The Tripura Roadways Transport Bus Service has been suspended by the government for safety and security of the people. Attendance in government offices, however, are said to be normal. About 132 Congress-I workers, including the president of the Tripura Pradesh Congress-I, Mr Sudhir Ranjan Majumder, were arrested for picketing.

Congress-I Secures Majority in Nagaland

BK210306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Excerpt] In Nagaland, the Congress-I has returned to power, securing an absolute majority in the 60-member assembly. Of the 57 results declared so far, the party has bagged 31 seats. The Naga National Democratic Party has secured 18 seats, the Naga People's Party 1, and independents 7. The BJP which contested two seats drew a blank. [passage omitted]

Gandhi on Acquiring Super Computer From U.S.

BK190919 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] The scientific adviser to the U.S. President, Mr Reagan, will be visiting India in March next to discuss the transfer of high technology to the country. Last month it was agreed to enhance cooperation between India and the United States in a number of a fields, including science and technology.

Intervening during question time in the Rajya Sabha today, the prime minister assured the members that India is fully capable of taking assistance from any country without jeopardizing the security of the nation.

Replying to another supplementary, Mr Gandhi made it clear that the suprecomputer Cray XMP 14, which India is buying from the United States, is the best suited to our requirements. He said no compromise has been made on the quality of the machine. Mr Gandhi disclosed that one computer will be set up in Delhi and the other in Bangalore.

In reply to the main question, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said the bilateral measures agreed to during the prime minister's visit to Washington will contribute to meeting some of India's development needs. He said we are getting defense technology not only from the United States but from a number of other countries also.

Iran

Gulf Incident With U.S. Forces Detailed

LD221111 Tehran IRNA in English 1106 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Four helicopters and two patrol ships of the U.S. forces tried to circumvent Iranians' interception of the Greek cargo ship *Jimilta* at the Persian Gulf Saturday but were repelled by the Iranian seamen. The Greek ship was suspected of carrying cargo for Iraq.

Iranian seamen embarked on the 29,000-ton '*Jimilta*' and after a close scrutiny the ship was led to a southern port for further checking.

Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan stressed Sunday that no power could hinder Iran's rightful and legitimate measures in investigating the ships suspicious of carrying goods which might beef up Iraq's military strength.

He said that the personnel of the Iranian Navy instructed the ship to stop. At first the captain of the ship paid no attention but when heard firing of the Iranian Navy was forced to stop.

Later, from an unknown station the Greek ship was ordered to continue its voyage and immediately a number of U.S. helicopters flew over the vessel.

The helicopters, accompanied by a number of U.S. roving boats tried to prevent Iranian forces to investigate the ship but the Iranians embarked on board the vessel while warning the Americans.

Malekzadegan said that at this moment the U.S. Naval units issued messages to the captain of the ship advising him not to follow Iranian forces. But, he added, the Iranian forces opened fire on the helicopters and dispersed them after two hours, leading the ship to one of Iran's southern ports.

The navy commander stressed that Iranian Naval forces will not hesitate to accomplish their missions and will fight any acts of aggression.

Incident Denied

LD221704 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] In response to a number of reports claiming that two Iranian speedboats had threatened a supply ship *Gulf Fleet 104* on Saturday afternoon, a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters said: We have no reports about Iranian speedboats threatening such a vessel.

He added: The only incident in the Persian Gulf yesterday afternoon was the unsuccessful U.S. attempt to stop the Islamic Republic of Iran from carrying out its legal right to inspect the Greek vessel *Jimilta*, which resulted in the boarding of the vessel after decisive action by the sailors of the Islamic Republic's Navy, who forced U.S. vessels to leave the area.

He added: Coming at the same time as this unsuccessful and illegal American attempt, the claim about the *Gulf Fleet 104's* being threatened could be due to a mistake by foreign radios and news agencies in their first reports. Considering that following a preliminary report about threats to the *Gulf Fleet 104* there have been no further reports by international news media, they probably have realized their mistake.

Tehran Cites Shipping Sources on Greek Tanker

LD221121 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Quoting shipping sources in the region, news agencies report that early this morning, an oil tanker flying the Greek flag was attacked by gunboats in the southern parts of the Persian Gulf.

The 63,953 tonne oil tanker *Andromeda*, bound for the port of Jubayl in the Hijaz, received some damage in the attack, but none of the crew were hurt.

After the attack, which took place at 2325 GMT, corresponding to 0255 Tehran time, the tanker changed course towards the UAE. At present, she is docked in Dubayy, so that the extent of the damage can be assessed.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD202011 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1550 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 20 November—recorded]

[Text] The events of the past week, and also of the future, are and will be among the most important events in our country. Furthermore, these events are consolidating factors for the Islamic world. The issue of the Mobilization Corps and the response by our people throughout the country to the invitation of the Supreme War Support Council, as well as their obedience to the beloved and lofty imam, are all very important and crucial issues that cannot be emphasized enough. What my brothers and I have been repeatedly discussing and analyzing during the past few days still leaves room for further examination.

However, it may be worthwhile to point out that the moves of 13 reactionary Arab statesmen in our region during the past week have been a source of great shame for Arab countries and a great tragedy for those who have Islamic dignity and resolve. This created a fiasco for the Arab world which will last throughout future generations. The gathering that took place—an unsuccessful and defeated gathering, despite the global publicity attempted by its supporters who claimed success—was not at all successful becuase their objective was not achieved. To condemn Iran by issuing some statements is nothing new; regional reactionaries and the mercenaries of global arrogance have been taking advantage of any gathering and opportunity to say something about the Islamic Republic of Iran and our Muslim nation every time they want to win over their masters. The meeting's condemnation was nothing more than that. However, their wish to boycott the Islamic Republic within the Arab world by isolating it and severing relations—the main reason behind the gathering in the eyes of its hosts—was not fulfilled. Their snouts were pushed into dust. [cheers]

Anyway, the issue of prohibiting the severing of relations with Egypt by rescinding the agreement reached at an Arab League conference following the Camp David accords 9-10 years ago—when they all agreed to break relations with Egypt for its contacts with Israel and for Al-Sadat's treason against the Islamic Arab world—is an extraordinary and abject shame. It is a cause of humiliation for the reactionary statesmen. From an historical aspect, the judgment against people like King Husayn, Mubarak, and other prime promoters of this event will never be forgotten. It was also a heavy blow against Arab morale, as it was an accepted fact that the Arab world could no longer achieve anything in the face of Zionists. If they could achieve anything by confronting the Zionists and regaining the just rights of the Palestinian nation, then there would be no sense in extending their hand to Egypt which betrayed the Palestinain cause. In breaking relations with that same Egypt, which stands beside Israel and is at peace with Israel, is in effect signing a peace treaty with Israel.

Everyone viewed the matter in a similar way. Even the Israelis were happy and their supporters felt the same pleasure. Those who conducted covert contacts with the Zionists also took the same view, believing that their wish was realized and their solitude ended. Therefore, they cannot deny that signing a document allowing Arab countries to renew relations with Egypt is equal to signing the Camp David accords. There is no difference. This became a truly great humiliation for the Arab world, as no new event had occured since they severed relations with Egypt to prompt a review of these relations. In the course of the past 9-10 years, the only developments regarding Israel were its repeated aggressions. Israel had not committed aggression against Lebanon, but it soon did so. Israel advanced as far as Beirut, and then, of course, retreated. Lebanese lands controlled by Israel today were not then in the hands of Israel. No new event has taken place to justify their reviewing old words. The people in charge now are the very same ones who were in charge then as the leaders of their countries or as directors and lynchpins of their countries' foreign policies. So, the people are the same, and no coup d'etat or change of government has taken place to cause any deviation from the policies of 9-10 years ago. The very same people broke their relations with Egypt then, and today they renew relations or allow relations to be renewed once again.

What can this mean? Why is this so? First, the move to restore relations indicates that their breaking relations with Egypt was not a serious or true break. In fact, they did not tell Egypt they would break relations following its peace treaty with Israel, out of anger against Israel. It was the public opinion in the Arab world that made them take this step. During the past few years they have been

duping public opinion by issuing treasonable comments about Israel in conferences and interviews, in addition to the treacherous actions by the Moroccan king and others. They prepared the ground so that similar fervor and sensitivity was removed from the Arab world's public opinion, thus allowing them peace of mind for their treasons.

Today also, the remedy is in the force of public opinion. Those who form public opinion in the Arab world—journalists, members of the press, the ulema, the poets, and those who have some influence in society, the pupils and the students—should stir up the opinion of their own people. They should make them realize what a treachery is about to be implemented. They are completely eliminating the issue of Israel from the list of the issues of the Islamic Arab world. This is a great treachery against Islam, against the Palestinian nation and the Palestinian country, and against all Islamic and Arab nations.

The cleverness of the United States is that it has prevented these foolish, ignorant people, who once raised a clamor against Israel and were even coerced to use force against Israel, to give up their confrontation against Israel, while at the same time inciting them to confront a government and a country that are the greatest enemies of Israel, namely, the Islamic Republic of Iran. The United States killed two birds with one stone. It diverted them from the confrontation against Israel in which they were engaged, at least to all appearances. At the same time, it portrayed the Islamic Republic of Iran—the greatest champion of Palestinian rights, which has carried out the most courageous acts, deeds, and words against Israel—as the enemy of these stupid, unwise individuals, thereby setting Islamic Iran against these foolish people. These brainless people did not even realize what they were doing. They think that the Islamic Republic has raised revolutionary slogans, Islamic slogans, and, as everyone knows, Islamic and revolutionary slogans make the palaces of tyranny tremble. In such a case, it is proper for them to confront Islamic Iran. They do not realize that those who overtly confront Islamic Iran, who confront a government that is formed on the basis of the Koran and Islam, have in effect confronted Islam. The Jordanian nation, the Arabian nation, the nations in North Africa, and the other nations of the Middle East—are they not all Muslims? Are there no believers among them? Yes, there are plenty. There are millions of faithful, believing, and pious Muslims in those countries, and all of them believe in the sovereignty of Islam and are aligned with the Islamic Republic. Because their leaders have confronted Islam so overtly, the foundations of their governments will tremble. Eventually, the Muslim people's storm of anger will rise. This is something that these foolish, imprudent, and stupid individuals did not understand, and so they did what they did. This was a U.S. trick!

Of course, even if the whole world blasphemes against God, the purity of the Islamic Republic will not be tainted. On the day we started our revolution, launched our movement, when we started our war and our defense, which countries showed the slightest concern for us? Today it is the same. For us—who are not afraid of 60 or 70 U.S. warships, of NATO, or of any others, this brave and valiant nation that is standing so firmly and resolutely—so what if now a few U.S. mercenaries and a few reactionary kings and presidents sit there together holding discussions. Even if they had cut off their relations with Iran, it would have been of no importance to the Islamic Republic. We are moving toward the light, toward the dawn, our vista and our future course are bright, while they are moving toward a dead end. They have no future. The most they can achieve is to continue their lives in misery and degradation for a few more days.

The future belongs to this revolutionary nation, to this moving, uprisen, and revolutionary nation, to this brave and fearless nation, which is so aware of the world. The future belongs to this nation, while they are immersed in misery and ignominy. Of course, we regard their nations as good and Islamic nations, but they should be more active. They are active to some extent, but God willing, they will be more active in the future.

I predict that the future move of those reactionaries will be to unite with the Zionists and with the illegitimate government of Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is not beyond their thinking. If they feel the United States is exerting greater pressure on them to do this, Shah Hassan and Shah Husayn [King Hassan of Morocco and King Husayn of Jordan], and others like them will have no objection to forming an alliance with Israel against the Islamic Republic. Even in that case, God willing, all of them will go to hell together. [shouts of approval].

Of course, the issue of our present mobilization is a natural and necessary move in the course of the issues of the war. They may regard this mass movement of the people as a response to their moves. Well, let them think so. The United States regards this as a threat against itself. It is right to regard it as a threat. Our people truly threaten the United States. The American military presence in the Persian Gulf requires an answer. Its response is this great movement by the people. However, those reactionary leaders are too insignificant for our nation to cause us to mobilize as a result of their decisions, their words, their vain and boastful talk. No, the mobilization movement that exists today—and you can clearly see this movement, this enthusiasm in all parts of the country, something which, God willing, will be accelerated day by day, and we can see that this is so—this is a natural need and a natural move in the course of our war and in the history of our war. So far, we have delivered some crushing blows to the Iraqi regime and in the course of the past few years we have delivered regular attacks—apart from the first few months, when we were faced with a surprise attack. Since then, all the blows,

offensives, and initiative have been on our side. Whenever the enemy decided to launch an operation, it was met with the mighty blow of our fighters and was forced to retreat. Very often we were the attackers.

In this connection, they have just now handed me a note, and I will tell you about it. Following the launching of "Zafar-3" 2 nights ago, last night the forces under the command of Ramadan Headquarters, together with the Iraqi Kurdish fighters, have attacked important installations in the town of Dahuk, which is also the name of an Iraqi province. They have carried out very successful military operations, inflicted heavy losses and casualties, and returned safely. [slogans, shouts of approval]

These consecutive, permanent, and effective blows have always existed. Now, however, the time has come for us to change the course of the war. The method by which we deliver a blow today, then leave it for a while, and then later deliver another blow belongs to a particular period in time that now has come to an end. Now we are at a juncture when we should demonstrate to the world the decisiveness of the Iranian people, their determination to achieve their rights, and to bring the issue to a just conclusion. Everyone should know this.

In response to those who have political claims, we pronounce from international podiums that we seek justice, that we want to implement justice, that we attach greater importance to justice than to an unjust peace. In this we are supported by public opinion. The people should demonstrate that they are determined to settle the issue on the basis of that just solution as announced to the world. There should be a limit to patience and forebearance. This can only be achieved through continuous and incessant operations.

Presently, groups of people—and truly, various groups of people have demonstrated a great deal of courage and heroism—that have acted so bravely take it upon themselves to go to the fronts and carry out their work, then return, and after a certain amount of time they go back to the fronts. However, this gap between various operations is no longer appropriate for this stage in the history of our war. Today the world should know this fact. The political world's public opinion should understand this and be fully convinced that the Iranian nation is decisively and seriously intent on seeing the war end in a just manner. If we want to make the world realize this, we should continue our operations in the manner we have announced. It was announced so that those who are capable should register in order that continuous operations are assured. You should go and register your names. The Guards Corps members who are responsible for registeration will tell you that you should come back in 2 months, or they will tell another person 1 month. If someone is ready or wishes to go now, they will tell him to go today. This would result in having sufficient forces in the fronts today, next month, or in 6 months. Any time the officials in charge of the war decide it necessary and appropriate to deliver a blow, they will have an adequate number of troops at the fronts. This will be achieved with the movement that has begun today. This is what we need.

You should fully understand that in order to defeat and crush the enemy and demoralize the supporters of the enemy, these successive operations will continue for as long as necessary. [slogans, shouts of approval]

Of course, our enemies also have the same ideas that we have today. If we believe that the war will be settled by delivering these blows continuously, the United States also has the same ideas. The United States also knows that if we deliver our blows continuously, Iraq will be brought to its knees. This is something the United States also knows, something it is trying desperately to prevent. It has affirmed it would not like to see Iran emerge victorious in the war; it says that it would not like to see the war have a victor. Of course, it is clear that Iraq will not be the victor; it has no hope of victory. The side that might be victorious, if there is going to be a victor, will be none other than the Islamic Republic. Those who say they do not wish to see a victor mean that they do not wish to see Iran achieve victory. If it were possible for Iraq to be victorious, they would have welcomed it and would have been very pleased to see Iraq victorious, because at the start of the war they were the ones who incited Iraq to attack. Therefore, when they stress that there should be no victor in the war because they do not want Iran to be victorious, this is because they know that if Iran continues these operations in a continuous manner, Iraq will be finished. This is why they are trying to prevent this at all costs.

The issue of the arms embargo and the efforts undertaken by the United States in this respect, or the issue of the comprehensive ban they are trying to impose—and thanks be to God they have not been and will not be able to achieve either, they will not even be able to achieve an arms embargo—even when they think they have imposed an arms embargo on Iran, that will be the time when we will either manufacture the weapons that we need inside the country, or, despite their wishes, procure them from sources of which they do not approve. Therefore, they will never achieve their aim. The same is true for a comprehensive ban. The situation in the world is such that the United States can no longer impose an embargo on the Islamic Republic and cut off all deals, oil purchases, and other things. The Islamic Republic has achieved such a level of strength and capability that such a plan is no longer possible for its enemies. However, the United States is still making every effort. Despite U.S. efforts, thanks to God, we know and our enemies know that if this movement continues, it will be successful. We must continue our blows until we can solve the matter, untie the knot, and this knot will be untied by your hands.

Fortunately, it has been shown that all strata have responded well. All reports I have seen are promising. The nation is sacrificing lives. Various strata of people

from everywhere are present at this Friday prayers. A multitude of esteemed clergymen and fighting seminary students of the Imam Ja'far-Sadiq Brigade from Qom have come to participate in the prayers. They are being dispatched in real earnest. At the time of dispatch they will be asked and if they agree, these brothers, as well as other people, will be quickly sent to the fronts. They are announcing their readiness here and now. [cheers]

Many thousands of volunteer Mobilization forces from Shahriyar are here at our Friday prayers. Soon maneuvers will be held in various garrisons in Tehran and other towns in order to demonstrate the people's readiness. Following the maneuvers, there will be registrations for scheduling the people's presence at the fronts. That is when we shall need them on the battlefields. In this way the continuity of which we spoke will be maintained. This was mentioned in the statement of the Supreme War Support Council and repeated many times. God willing, they will sustain the effort and maintain it at the fronts.

Another point I wanted to mention is that of financial donations. Many have asked questions about their lack of financial resources to pay for a fighter's expenses and how to solve This problem. We said that those people who can afford to pay must give as much as their resources allow. Those who are not well off can pay less. Another point is that of the poor and people without incomes who cannot participate in the financial jihad. We set out the plan for the well-to-do, but those who have no income and cannot afford it have no obligation in financial jihad. This is required of those who can afford to donate as much money as 10,000 people would. Each to his own limit. Nothing is expected of those who have no income and cannot donate anything. Some people have asked about their donations left with various centers in towns, with the esteemed Friday imams, and with the support headquarters, and whether those sums should continue. We have said in interviews that such donations should not be severed, but the substantial donations will be carried by Account No 55, while the other donations can continue without any hinderance. The public is taking steps to conduct the financial jihad in a state of total selflessness. Of course, this is just the beginning and it will begin gradually. One comes across some cases that truly reflect total sincerity.

After a speech during my trip to Hamadan some 3-4 days ago, someone gave me a letter from a lady and I have kept it to read to you. Such things are extraordinary and delicate examples for history. Fortunately, such things are not extraordinary in our times. However, in history such things are truly rare. The lady expressed a great deal of admiration for the imam and officials, saying that her husband and sons are at the fronts and will remain there. After expressing shame at not being able to go to the fronts herself, she said:

I have two worthless rings, which are my sole adornments, and a sum of money that I have been collecting for several months in order to buy winter clothing for my children. I am ashamed that my dear imam is paying the cost of 50 warriors for 3 months and so I must give all I have for the warriors.

She goes on to express her shame over the small amount, stating that she wants to participate at the battlefronts. After she finished the letter, however, her daughter added at the end of the letter:

When I saw that my mother had donated the two rings and the money she needs for my brothers' winter clothes, prefering to donate them to the warriors, I was moved and am donating a small amount of money that I have been saving, together with a ring that I bought after saving for it for some time.

The mother and daughter, who seem to be middle class, are donating a sum of money for God's way. There was another letter from someone who had lost three children at the fronts.

Apparently, this person had 10,000 tumans, which presumably belonged to the children. He has gone and put this in the account and has sent us the receipt. This shows the faith and purity existing among the people. We have complete faith in the new move that has been started by our dear people, and know that it is as a result of such determination that great problems, including this problem, are solved.

I have another point I wish to raise because of the presence here of our dear theological students, as the presence of these dear brothers gives us hope, refreshes us, and shows us the dimension of this great movement and transformation stemming from the revolution and taking place in the seminaries. The effect of this will last throughout the revolution and is very deep. I wish to suggest to all the clergy across the country not to let go of this closeness with the people under any circumstances. Fortunately, this closeness has existed. At the fronts and at every stage, seminarians and seminary students, as well as ulema and clerics, and even the elder ulema have gone to the fronts, are going to and coming back from the fronts. There is no doubt of this. However, I would like to say that this move must show itself more clearly, publicly, and extensively these days, and with more zeal.

Across the country, in all the mosques, the respected congregational prayer leaders, ulema, and clergy, all the gentlemen of the pulpit must stress the popular presence of the clergy and show it to the people. People will be happier as a result of the presence of the clergy and will gain hope and their moral will be boosted.

I ask the Almighty to make all the people successful in this very beneficial road.

Khamene'i Affirms Need To Continue War

LD221414 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, arrived in Esfahan this morning to attend the million-strong exercises of the Mohammad—peace be upon him—combatants of Esfahan Province. The Central News Unit correspondent in Esfahan has sent a report in this connection which we will now hear:

Obeying the behests of his excellency the imam and the 10 articles of the guidelines issued by the Supreme War Support Council, 70 divisions from the reserve forces of the II Corps of Seyyed al-Shohada and model combat units from 1,300 different bases of Esfahan Province, all armed, took part in the exercises of the Mohammad—peace be upon him—fighters.

Simultaneous with the exercises, the alert people of Esfahan, chanting slogans such as "War, war until victory," "Iran's Persian Gulf will be Reagan's grave," marched in the streets and gathered at the site of the exercises. In this million-strong gathering, all chanting "War, war until victory," "Hoseyn, Hoseyn is our slogan," "We are proud to be martyrs," "Iran's Persian Gulf will be Reagan's grave," President Khamene'i delivered a speech.

He said: This gathering of you courageous, selfless, and generous men and women of the city of martyrs, the city of combatants and line-breaking divisions, the city of pride and revolution, confirms my perception and that of all government officials from your city and province. No doubt, in this sensitive and dangerous juncture, when the fate of the war and the history of our nation will be decided, Esfahan will continue to shine. This huge and well attended gathering is an example.

Mr Khamene"i added: It is in the interest of the oppressors to let time pass and to put increasing pressure on the Islamic Republic. We are trying to take this advantage out of their hands. This huge movement all over the country originates from the same idea—to apply such order, speed, and continuity to our blows that the enemy will not catch its breath. While stressing the need to maintain a state of readiness among the people, he added: Using our power and determination, we should continue the war and reach the stage when people remain in a state of readiness for mobilization operations [as heard]. However, today, we are not mobilizing people for one operation only; we are preparing them so that whenever necessary, those in charge of the war can start their continuous operations whenever needed and deal more crushing blows. This is the principle. We should maintain a state of high readiness in our forces, to be ready to face the enamy at any time.

Present Situation 'Fateful'

LD221011 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Esfahan, Nov. 22, IRNA—President and head of the Supreme Defence Council 'Ali Khamene'i arrived here Sunday morning to review the maneuvers of the Mohammad (SAW) corps.

The president attended the 19th graduation ceremony of the F-14 pilots at Martyr Barbai'e air base of the city.

Speaking in the ceremony the president described the present state of political and social situation as fateful for the Iraq-Iran war. He said the world oppressors are doing their best to halt progress of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. They maintain, he said, that if the Islamic Revolution should manage to survive the current tide it will become the dominant power in the region.

This is a realistic analysis, he said, adding that the party capable of steering the course of future events is the Islamic Republic and not the foreign powers.

Elsewhere in his speech President Khamene'i also praised the heroism and outstanding performance of Iran's Air Force pilots in the course of the Iraqi-imposed war.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Mohammad Corps

LD220550 Tehran IRNA in English 0545 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Gonbad-e Qabus, Mazandaran Prov., Nov. 22, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Saturday that the Iranian nation ever since the outbreak of the imposed war in 1980 has not even retreated one step.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who was addressing a 100,000-strong Mohammad (SAW) corps said that the victory was near and that the enemies of the Islamic revolution of Iran have not benefited from their military adventurism.

The Iranian Majlis speaker who is also represents Imam Khomeyni at the Supreme Defence Council said that the Iranian people after expelling the enemy and liberating Iraq, along with the Iraqi people will unitedly liberate Palestine and the holy Qods from Zionist occupation.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added Iran's Muslim people will not sit still until Islam prevails in Muslim lands and the reactionary and lackey regimes are ousted.

Meanwhile in an address to a gathering of the people of Gorgan Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that imperialist threats will not affect the strong will of the Iranian people.

Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani is now on a tour of Mazandaran Province of Iran.

'New Battlegrounds' in Iraq

LD221709 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Sari, Mazandaran prov., Nov 22, IRNA—A 12 km-wide front in northeastern Iraq was opened to Iran's Muslim forces, following the victorious Nasr-8 operations, launched around Mawat town in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province early Friday, said Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday.

Addressing a 300,000-strong Mohammad (SAW) Corps here, the Majlis speaker said that new battlegrounds will soon be opened deep inside Iraqi Kurdistan.

The speaker, who made the remarks on witnessing the grand maneuvers staged by the 300,000-strong Mohammad (SAW) corps here, wished that selfish forces of the global arrogance had seen the maneuvers in order to realize how Iranian people will respond to their threats and intimidations.

Such intimidations and threats are unable to bend the strong will of the Iranian people, noted the speaker who is also the imam's representative to the Supreme Defence Council (SDC).

Hashemi-Rafsanjani reminded that since the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979, arrogant powers have never considered the danger posed by the revolution to their so-called interests to be so serious as it is now. They (arrogant powers) are furious over what has happened in Iran, he added.

Arrogant powers ignored what had happened in the region but could never look over the imminent overthrow of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, said the speaker. Therefore they have mobilized all their resources in a vain bid to maintain the Baghdad regime in power, he concluded.

Rezai'e Describes Latest Combat Operations

LD211848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Mr Mohsen Rezai'e, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], in an exclusive interview with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran reported on the latest operations of the Islamic fighters and described the new phase of the war and future programs. Noting that the world is trying to contain the Islamic Revolution, he said: Any negotiations with the enemy would mean the enslavement of the revolutionary nation. However, thank the Lord, now the warriors of Islam, in the "Zafar-3," "Zafar-4," and "Nasr-8" operations are fighting the Zionist enemy. Moreover, the United States and Kuwait have encountered many problems in southern Gulf waters. Following the arrival of the United States in the region, stray missiles appeared in the Persian Gulf, and now the United States is a prisoner of warriors of Islam in this area.

Rezai'e said that last year was the year of industry and war when Iran made great strides. He added that this is the year of war and economy. He said: Financial mobilization is a part of the program, as has been announced. We hope that the noble people will continue to support the government. Another program involves support for the warriors and the war, for which new laws will be established whereby the warriors, their families, and the war will enjoy further support. In addition, training and dispatching forces will be scheduled so that those who want to be trained or sent to the fronts will undergo training and be dispatched in turn. Thus, reserve corps will be created across the country.

The IRGC commander then used a map to describe the latest operations by the warriors of Islam adding: A part of the operation took place near the Darband-e Khan Dam and south of Sulaymaniyah city, during which the enemy lost 1,600 men and we took 50 prisoners. The power generation and transmission facilities of the Darband-e Khan Dam were destroyed, and the warriors of Islam who had gathered in the region from various Iraqi cities returned to their hideouts on Iraqi soil after the operation.

Another operation was carried out in the city of Sangab. The battalion defending the city was destroyed; booty was taken by the warriors of Islam, who are now stationed on the city's heights.

A third group of operations was carried out in Iraq's Dahuk Province, where the international and strategic Baghdad-Mawsil-Turkey highway was brought under fire by the warriors of Islam. A large number of trucks using the highway were destroyed, as well as a brigade headquarters.

Other operations, codenamed "Nasr-8," were carried out near the Iraqi city of Dukan in northern Sulaymaniyah region and an area called (Gadrash), during which the heights of the region, measuring 4 km by 12 km, were captured.

So far, 180 prisoners of war have been transferred behind the front lines, and the enemy has suffered 2,500 wounded. A number of tanks and bulldozers were also captured. Enemy bodies are scattered throughout the region.

In conclusion, Mohsen Rezai'e noted that our nation had revolted under the leadership of the imam of ummah, thus realizing its true character. He added: Those who consider struggle against the enemies to be opposed to economic political, and cultural issues are making a big mistake, as success in these areas requires struggle. If we

are not independent then neither will we have independent politics, economy, or culture. Our freedom and character are products of the struggle against infidelity and dissent; and the continuation of the struggle will safeguard it.

UK Said To Supply Chemical Weapons to Iraq

NC201932 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] The region is witnessing an abnormal degree of activity in the way of visits, meetings, and conferences. This has important implications for the Islamic arena. We note Genscher's visit to Iraq, David Mellor's visit to the Persian Gulf, and the meeting of defense ministers of the Gulf states and regimes which is to be held tomorrow. We also note the messages exchanged between the rulers in the region and U.S. President Ronald Reagan. These focus on the war issue and the fate of the Saddam regime. [passage omitted]

Taking one of these visits as an example, we can discern the general trend of diplomatic activity at this stage. The British Jew Mellor, minister of state for foreign affairs, visited the Persian Gulf. The purpose of his visit was to discuss the war situation between the Islamic Republic and Saddam's regime. When Mellor arrived, Britain sounded its sirens, warning the Islamic Republic to accept UN Security Council Resolution 598. The British visitor declared his country's support for Saddam's regime on the pretext that Iraq has accepted the resolution while the Islamic Republic has refused to accept it.

Iraqi-British relations are so obvious that they do not need any explanations or admissions by the British minister. These relations have developed to such an extent that Britain is providing military assistance and financial support. It is no secret that Britain has supplied the Saddam regime with chemical weapons or with equipment which can be used to manufacture chemical weapons. As for financial support, the British banks have opened their coffers, supplying huge financial credits which cannot be calculated in exact figures. Practical proof of Britain's support for the Iraqi economy was given by its extensive participation in the Baghdad International Fair. The British pavilion there was one of the largest. Dozens of British companies operating in Iraq were represented at the fair.

Britain is not alone in giving loans and supplying credits for Saddam's regime. All the countries of the capitalist camp support this regime these days. Reports received recently revealed new loans amounting to DM100 million from the FRG to Iraq. The United States had previously granted Iraq a loan of $1 billion. When we add up these figures, we find that they really reflect the fact that the Iraqi economy has declined and collapsed. This is despite the facilities granted by the reactionary countries to enable the regime to continue exporting oil in quantities that exceed the production ceiling set for it by OPEC.

How can a regime which cannot settle its existing debts cope with new ones? Another question for the countries that are giving loans to Iraq: Why are they giving a collapsing regime new debts when they are aware of the regime's economic weakness? Are these loans not a desperate attempt, on the part of all the imperialist circles, to prop up the regime?

Maneuvers Planned; Battalions To Join Fronts

LD211130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] The "Allegiance to the Imam" maneuvers will be held in Karaj on 26 November. Over 200,000 volunteers from popular forces will participate.

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Karaj announced this in an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent this morning. He added: This move clears the way for dispatching the great Mohammadan Corps convoy, composed of about 20 battalions, given the very enthusiastic public reaction. The forces will be dispatched to the battlefield on 30 November.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

1,600 Iraqi Casualties

LD201816 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov 20, IRNA—Iraqi troops have so far suffered 1,600 casualties in the continuation of the Zafar-3 operations in northern Iraq, the Ramadan joint military headquarters announced Friday night.

As a result of the operations by the Islamic Forces consisting of Islamic Revolution's Guards, Iraqi Mujahedin and Kurdish guerrillas now control the Sinka-Chamchamal road in Kirkuk Province which is the only road connecting the enemy forces in this operational region.

Zafar-3 began Monday night with an attack on Iraqi positions in the Darbandikhan region of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province during which 1,000 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded.

In Friday's action enemy positions in the Sinka region came under semi-heavy weapons' fire of the forces belonging to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) and the combatants of the Patriotic Union of Kurdestan (PUK).

A large number of Ba'thist troops were killed or wounded and a number of their positions and vehicles were demolished.

Also the joint Islamic forces raided an enemy column, which had come to help the besieged Ba'thist troops in the region, killing or wounding tens of soldiers. The battered column escaped the scene leaving large amounts of weaponry.

More Progress in 'Zafar-4' Noted

LD201756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] According to another report from Ramadan Headquarters, the warriors under the command of this headquarters with cooperation and active presence of the Iraqi KDP, continued the victorious "Zafar-4" operations by attacking the headquarters of the battalion responsible for guarding the International Baghdad-Turkey highway, destroying 10 supply dumps located along the highway, and killing 70 enemy personnel.

According to the same report, our warriors infiltrated the city of Sumayyil, destroyed the post and telegraph center, and a filling station in the city. In addition, 60 percent of the officers club in the city of Dahuk was destroyed. The report adds that an enemy machinegun position near the city was attacked and all the personnel of the unit were annihiliated.

Ramadan HQ on 'Zafar-4' Operation

LD201759 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] A statement by Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for directing the operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was issued tonight as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear compatriots, continuing the ceaseless battle against the criminals ruling Iraq and responding to the latest adventures by that Ba'thist-Zionist regime in bombing civilian areas, including a hospital in Dahuk Province, the commandos of the Special Martyrdom Battalion, accompanied by other forces under the command of the Ramadan Headquarters and with the cooperation and active participation of Iraqi KDP strugglers, began the "Zafar-4" operations last night with the code name "O, Messenger of God" 250 km inside Iraq. They managed to determined certain targets around the city of Dahuk, and destroyed them. In the course of these destructive operations, which were supported by high volume of fire from artillery and other units, our warriors managed to deal the following blows against the enemy through their effective and surprise attack:

1. The destruction of the 119th Brigade Headquarters in Dahuk, which is responsible for directing and ensuring the security of bases around the city. All of the installations and facilities of the headquarters were destroyed and more than 100 Ba'thist army personnel were either wounded or annihilated;

2. The destruction of 60 percent of Dahuk's power and transmission installations, which are located 20 km northeast of the city;

3. The destruction of some 40 percent of Dahuk's central police station;

4. The destruction of 60 percent of Dahuk's building and communications facilities;

5. The destruction of four factories around Dahuk, which supplied some of the needs of the Iraqi Ba'thist army in the area.

6. The complete closure of the Dahuk-Turkey transit road for a period of 9 hours, hitting a number of vehicles carrying supplies and fuel for the Iraqi regime.

7. The destruction of 12 enemy vehicles by firing into a parking area for the Iraqi-Ba'thist army.

[Signed] Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters

70 Iraqis Killed in 'Zafar-4'

LD201819 Tehran IRNA in English 1806 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—Another 70 Iraqi soldiers were killed by the joint combatants of the Ramadan Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and Peshmergas of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) as they stormed 10 enemy bases on Iraq-Turkey transit road in continuation of Zafar-4 operations, carried out Thursday night.

Announcing the above today, Ramadan Headquarters added the officers' club in the city of Dahuk was destroyed by 60 percent by the Muslim combatants who also infiltrated 'Samil' town, destroying a post and telegraph center and a petrol station.

An Iraqi gun emplacement was also attacked by the joint forces around the city of Dahuk with all its crewmen killed, said the headquarters.

Communique No 3,027

LD211531 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and inspected 14 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Saturday.

The 3027th Joint Staff Communique said that exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields Friday raging somewhat more heavily in Mehran, western sector, where Iraqi troops sustained considerable casualties and losses.

In the northwestern fronts, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and observation posts and three vehicles were set ablaze by Iranian artillery fire Friday.

In the southern fronts, Iran's Muslim forces shelled Iraqi positions Friday, killing at least five enemy soldiers and destroying part of their fortifications.

Iraqi troops suffered several casualties and 10 enemy emplacements of various weapons and a vehicle were destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Friday.

In Sumar, Helaleh, Yebis, western and southern sectors, Iranian artillery fire checked movement of Iraqi motorized columns Friday, inflicting heavy losses on enemy troops, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,028

LD221611 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22. IRNA—At least 70 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and three munitions depots, six tanks and personnel carriers and 15 gun emplacements were destroyed in a lightning attack by an Iranian patrol unit on enemy positions in an operational theater across the western border town of Qasr-e Shirin Friday night

Reporting the above here today the 3028th communique of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces added that all Muslim combatants returned safely to bases bringing with them three Iraqi captives. An Iraqi patrol unit was also forced to flee from the region during the same period, sustaining some casualties.

Meanwhile, Iranian naval forces intercepted and searched 10 cargo ships and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday. One of the vessels found with suspicious cargo was escorted to a southern island, despite intervention of U.S. helicopters, while the rest were allowed to set sail.

Elsewhere in the western fronts Iraqi motorized movements in operational axes opposite Mehran, Zurbatiyah and Badrah were disrupted or halted by artillery fire in Panjwin, Helaleh and Sayyid Sadiq, northeastern Iraq.

In the southern fronts trade of tank and artillery fire continued sporadically, raging more heavily in Nahr 'Anbar, Eynkhosh and Faqqeh operational regions, where several Iraqi vehicles were destroyed and five enemy soldiers were killed.

Gendarmerie forces of the Islamic Republic also targeted Iraqi positions in parts of western and southern fronts destroying at least 15 gun emplacements, four munitions dumps and two fuel tankers, and killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers, the communique concluded.

'Nasr-8' Launched in Northern Iraq

LD211444 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Nasr-8 Operational Theater, Nov. 21, IRNA—Iran's Muslim forces, continuing their pressure on the beleagured Ba'thist regime of Iraq, launched operations 'Nasr-8' code-named 'Ya Mohammad ibn 'Abdullah' (SAW), around the liberated Mawat region in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, northeastern Iraq, early Friday.

A large number of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and a great deal of enemy military equipment was destroyed in the operations aimed at providing more facilities for the northern Iraqi people in their struggle against the Baghdad regime.

Several Iraqi soldiers were also captured in the operations, in which the Muslim combatants deployed unique mountain warfare tactics catching enemy troops completely off-guard.

Heights, Villages 'Liberated'

LD211620 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 21 Nov 87

[All placenames as received]

[Text] Nasr-8 Operational Theater, Nov 21, IRNA—An additional 30 square kms of Iraqi territory and eight strategic heights in northeastern Iraq were liberated in the Nasr-8 operations, launched by Iran's Muslim combatants early Friday.

Some 140 Iraqi soldiers including several officers and NCOs, captured by the Iranian combatants around the Mawat region liberated earlier this year in Al- Sulaymaniyah Province, northeastern Iraq, have so far been transferred behind the fronts.

In this lightning operations, the Muslim forces also liberated the Iraqi villages of Gamalan, Zuru, Khwar, Bergerbala and Bergerpain as well as an enemy outpost over 'Garderosh' heights.

Brigade 39 of Iraq's 44th division, a commando battalion of the 1st corps and a tank company of the 28th Division were annihilated, and Infantry Brigades 603, 83 and 77 of the 44th Division incurred substantial casualties and losses.

The attacking Muslim combatants destroyed several Iraqi tanks and armoured personnel carriers as well as dozens of military vehicles and construction machinery in addition to seizing intact scores of enemy tanks, armoured personnel carriers, a large number of light weapons and mortar launchers and also a sophisticated radar device.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' Communique

LD211913 Tehran IRNA in English 1839 GMT 21 Nov 87

[All placenames as received]

[Text] Nasr-8 Operational Theater, Nov. 21, IRNA—At least 2,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed and 8 strategic heights in northeastern Iraq liberated in the Nasr-8 operations launched by Iran's Muslim combatants around the liberated Iraqi region of Mawat in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, northeastern Iraq, early Friday, said a military communique here Saturday.

The communique released by Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters said that 30 square kms of northeastern Iraqi territory including the four villages of Gamalan-Zur, Gamalan Kharu, Berger-Bala and Berger-Pain and several enemy outposts over Gerdrosh heights, were liberated in the successful Iranian thrust.

The attacking Muslim combatants also purged Heights Numbers 1426, 1418, 1391, 1349, 1317, 1185, 8707 and 861 in the Nasr-8 operational theater of enemy troops, said the communique.

It said that 205 Iraqi soldiers, NCOs and officers were captured in the early hours of the operations, noting that corpses of a considerable number of top Iraqi commanders including Brigadier General Jasim Ahmad were seen among the killed.

Brigade 39 of Iraq's 44th Division, a commando battalion of the 1st Corps and a tank company of the 27th Division were completely wiped out and enemy infantry Brigades 603, 83 and 77 and a commando battalion of the 44th Division sufferred substantial casualties and losses, the communique said.

The Khatem ol-Anbiya' communique continued that the tactical headquarters of Iraqi Brigade 39 was seized by the Muslim forces of Iran.

The attacking combatants made up of the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) also inflicted heavy losses on the headquarters of the 2nd Iraqi Battalion of Brigade 504 based at Gamouzir heights in the operational theater, it added.

It said that other achievements of Iran's Muslim combatants include destruction of two Iraqi batteries, comprising two 130 mm and 123 mm artillery battalions, and two munitions dumps of the 139th Division in Surghala District as well as headquarters of the 2nd and 3rd Brigades of the Iraqi Presidential Guards in Cholan peak.

In the course of the operations, said the communique, headquarters of Iraqi Brigades 603, 83 and 309 and that of the 1st Battalion of a commando brigade of the 1st Corps, a SAM-2 missile pad at Azmar pass, a motor pool of Brigade 412 in Surghala, the tactical headquarters of Brigade 91 at Hezargamian heights and several enemy battalions stationed in Veilan heights sustained considerable casualties and losses.

According to the communique, the Muslim forces destroyed several Iraqi tanks and armoured personnel carriers as well as scores of enemy vehicles and construction machinery in addition to seizing intact a number of enemy tanks and armoured personnel carriers. A sophisticated radar device and a large number of light weapons and mortar launchers were also seized.

The Muslim forces of Iran are now in full control of the liberated areas with their heavy artillery fire suppressing all enemy military activities, concluded Khatem ol-Anbiya', the joint IRGC-Army headquarters.

70 Iraqis Killed

LD211800 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov 21, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants killed or wounded 70 Iraqi troops during their patrol infiltrations five kms. north east of Qasr-e Shirin inside eastern Iraq, launched concurrently with the Nasr-8 operations higher-up in the north Friday morning.

Enemy troops stationed around the destroyed Iraqi outpost 'Tiareq' were caught napping by the blitz attack of the Muslim combatants in the western fronts.

Six Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers, three munitions depots and three individual bunkers were totally destroyed in the course of the attack, with Muslim forces capturing several enemy troops of Brigade 443 of the 21st Iraqi division.

All attacking forces returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out the operations.

'Nasr-8' Operations Continue

LD220741 Tehran IRNA in English 0738 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Nasr-8 Operational Theater, Nov. 22, IRNA—Muslim forces of Iran repelled several Iraqi counterattacks in the Nasr-8 operational theater, Saturday night.

The Iraqi enemy reorganized its forces in Mawat region which were scattered around Barderash strategic heights by heavy shellfire of Muslim combatants. The Iranian forces repelled recurrent Iraqi counterattacks. The Nasr-8 operational region is now under full control of Muslim combatants.

The new operations were launched near Mawat in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, northeastern Iraq, early Friday.

Guards Corps Communique

LD221423 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] The General Staff Command of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps's forces has issued a communique: Following the victorious "Nasr-8" operations, which were carried out in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province in Iraq, the artillery of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps opened heavy and intensive fire on the enemy all through last night and today. This move prevented the Ba'thist enemy from making any moves while inflicting heavy losses and casualties on them.

According to this communique, the enemy sent commando battalions from I Corps and one battalion from the 77th Brigade to the operational theater last night and today. The enemy tried to launch four counteroffensives but the steadfastness of the forces of Islam and their intensive fire forced the enemy to retreat after suffering heavy losses and casualties. In the course of these confrontations, more than 800 enemy soldiers were either killed or wounded and 30 others were captured by the fighters of Islam. Therefore, the number of enemy soldiers killed or wounded since the beginning of the "Nasr-8" operations has exceeded 2,800. The number of POW's evacuated is now more than 235. Two 130-mm batteries, including 12 field guns and more than 10 big ammunition depots belonging to the enemy, were set on fire by our forces and burned for hours. In addition, 27 [word indistinct] vehicles carrying forces and ammunition together with 4 enemy tanks were destroyed.

Since the beginning of the victorious "Nasr-8" operations by the fighters of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Corps, a large amount of equipment belonging to the enemy has been captured, including 77 mortars of different calibers, 12 anti-aircraft guns, 1 rocket, 12 [word indistinct] vehicles, 3 command jeeps, 6 106-mm guns, and a quantity of communication equipment, along with a large amount of ammunition and hardware.

This communique thanks the brave and selfless pilots of the airborne units of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

Cabinet Hears Report on Operation

LD221556 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—The cabinet session presided by prime minister here today, was presented a report on the victorious Nasr-8 operations launched inside northeastern Iraq last Friday.

The report said that the Nasr-8 operations launched deep inside Iraq's Al-Sulaymaniyah Province took the enemy unawares, resulting in the liberation of a number of strategic heights and the destruction of a radar station of the enemy in the region.

The report stated that 2,500 enemy troops were either killed or injured, among whom were a number of commanders of Iraqi brigades and battalions including Brigadier-General Jasim Ahmad of Division 44.

So far 219 POWS have been transferred behind lines and two counterattacks repelled, added the report.

At the end of the session, the names of people from different strata of society, volunteering to fight on the fronts and to serve behind the lines were presented.

IRGC Repulses Counterattacks

LD221738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] We begin our news broadcast with our correspondent's report describing the foiling of a desperate enemy counterattack in the "Nasr-8" operational sector:

The Ground Forces fighters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, under the command of the Najaf-e Ashraf Headquarters, continued their relentless battle in the "Nasr-8" operational theater and created another epic last night. They repulsed repeated attacks by the enemy's reserved and commando units which intended to capture Gardurak Heights, killing or wounding hundreds of Ba'thist troops and capturing dozens more.

During this epic, which was backed by the intense artillery fire of the independent 61st Moharram Brigade and the Air Support Division of the Army Ground Forces, several tanks and engineering equipment, machinery, vehicles and enemy ammunition were set ablaze and destroyed. The relentless battle of the corps of Islam against the blasphemous Ba'thists in the "Nasr-8" operational theater still continues to the advantage of the fighters of Islam. As soon as we receive more reports, we shall inform the Hezbollahi ummah. We are assisted by God and our victory is near. Tell the believers the good news.

This was a report by the Central News Unit correspondent, dispatched from Yasuj center at the "Nasr-8" operational theater.

'Nasr-9' Operation Launched

LD231038 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, Nov. 23, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants launched Nasr-9 military operations near Hajj 'Umran, Eastern Irbil province of Iraq early Sunday, and liberated two strategic heights in the area. The operations started with the cue word 'Ya-Molayeh Motaghian' [Lord of the Pious]. Iranian combatants continue to battle Iraqi troops in the area and have the upper hand.

Heights Nos 1980, 1985 Liberated

LD231048 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1008 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] According to the first reports from the "Nasr-9" operational theater, Heights Nos 1980 and 1985, east of Irbil Province in Iraq, have been liberated by the fighters of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. These operations were launched to cut the communication routes of the counterrevolutionary elements in the region and to liberate the sensitive heights in this section of the front, thus helping the continuation of the long-suffering and oppressed people of Iraq's struggle. As a result, the enemy suffered heavy losses and damage. In Heights Nos 1980 and 1985 alone, the enemy suffered more than 300 losses.

Iraqi Battalion 'Totally Wiped Out'

LD231053 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1013 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] According to the latest reports from Khatem ol-Anbiya' the 3d Battalion of the 433d Brigade of the Iraqi 23d Division has been totally wiped out in the course of the "Nasr-9" operations. The 1st and 2d Battalions of the brigade have received losses amounting to around 60-70 percent. The same reports indicate that the enemy forces have tried repeated counteroffensives, but have been beaten back forcefully every time, with personnel killed, injured, and captured, as well as being forced to vacate their positions.

Pakistan

Delhi: 2 Killed in Baluchistan Explosion

BK221630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] In eastern Pakistan, two people were killed and 16 injured in a bomb explosion yesterday at a railway station about 150 km southeast of Quetta. One of the deceased was a 13-year-old boy and the other a policeman. The bomb ripped through the parcel office demolishing the building.

5 Killed in Ordnance Factory Fire

BK211624 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] There was an explosion in the ammunition shop of the ordnance factory at Wah razing the shop building today. Five persons are feared to have died under the debris. Five injured persons have been admitted in the factory hospital. Police sources say the incident took place because of the mechanical fault. Enquiry into the incident has been ordered.

in Bomb Blasts

BK210254 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani has again said that Afghan refugees are not involved in the incidents of bomb blasts in the country. The rumors being spread in this regard are aimed at creating hatred in the hearts of the Pakistani people against Afghan refugees so that the neighboring country may force them into accepting its conditions. Addressing a function in Karachi yesterday, he called upon the people to identify the subversive elements and to hand them over to the law enforcement agencies.

Junejo Affirms Retaliation Over Siachen

BK201221 Karachi NAWA-I WAQT in Urdu 7 Nov 87 pp 1, 5

[Text] From aboard the special plane, 6 November (PPI/APP)—Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said Pakistan will retaliate if India attacks Pakistani troops or tries to capture its territory in the Siachen area. Addressing newsmen on board his special plane en route to Kuala Lumpur from Kathmandu on 5 November, he said that during his meeting with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Kathmandu on 4 November he had made it very clear to his Indian counterpart that the Siachen issue should be resolved through negotiations as Pakistan would never give in. He also told the Indian prime minister that Pakistan desired a peaceful settlement of the Siachen issue. During their meeting, the two prime ministers also decided that a meeting of the defense secretaries of the two countries will be held soon to find a solution to the Siachen problem. Mohammad Khan Junejo said he rejected the Indian claim that Pakistan had attacked Indian troops in the Siachen area, and that

he also informed Rajiv Gandhi that contrary to New Delhi's claims, Indian troops had attacked and forcibly captured a Pakistani post in the Siachen area during the past 3 months. Pakistani troops then retaliated and recaptured the post. In the future, Pakistan will continue to retaliate if India attacks Pakistani troops or tries to capture any of its posts in the area.

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo reiterated Pakistan's desire to normalize relations with India. He said his meeting with Rajiv Gandhi in Kathmandu was both useful and productive. He discussed a number of issues with him. The prime minister said his meeting with Rajiv Gandhi, which was to take place at 1700 [on 3 November], was deferred because of a 2-hour extension in the SAARC meeting at the palace of Nepal's King Birendra, the chairman of the third SAARC summit conference. He, therefore, met his Indian counterpart the morning of 4 November.

Speaking on the outcome of the third SAARC summit, the prime minister expressed satisfaction with the decisions made with a consensus and with the exchange of views on issues of common interest. He described his meetings with SAARC leaders in Kathmandu as constructive. Mohammad Khan Junejo said Nepal's King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, who is also the chairman of the SAARC, had an hour-long meeting with him the night of 4 November and suggested exchanges of youth and cultural programs between Pakistan and Nepal. He said SAARC is not only a forum for forging cooperation among the seven member-nations but it has also provided an umbrella for sitting together and holding discussions on problems individually and collectively. The prime minister added that Pakistan, as a matter of principle, has never backed down from decisions that have been made individually or collectively.

Finance Official on Increase in Exports

BK200435 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Federal Finance Minister Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo said Pakistan's exports increased by 20 percent in the last 2 years and during the current fiscal year the exports are expected to be higher. Speaking to newsmen in Multan yesterday evening, he said in the last 10 years the rate of development was 6 to 7 percent which was approved by World Bank and other financial institutions. It is expected that the rate of development this year will be about 7 percent. The finance minister said the decrease in remittances from Pakistanis working abroad has been offset by the income derived from the increase in the prices of rice and cotton in the world market.

In reply to a question, he said after delinking the rupee from the dollar, the State Bank fixes the daily rate of exchange with various currencies. There is fluctuation in the value of rupee owing to the international economic situation. He said the deficit in the budget will not affect Prime Minister Junejo's five-point program. The prime minister's special developmental program is also going on successfully and under this program developmental work is being carried out throughout the country. In reply to a question, he said the Kalabagh Dam project has not been abandoned and this project is under consideration by the government.

Paper Analyzes SAARC Summit Outcome

BK191403 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Nov 87 p 4

[Editorial: "SAARC: Limited Consensus"]

[Text] The third summit conference of the leaders of member states of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has concluded with the adoption of the Kathmandu Declaration reiterating their determination to work in greater cooperation in the interests of the people of South Asia constituting one-fifth of the entire humanity. Among the more tangible results of the conference has been the signing of a convention on suppression of terrorism (to be ratified later) as well as an agreement establishing the South Asian food reserve. The consensus, albeit limited, on the issues of terrorism and food scarcity reflects the shared concern of the member states.

Perceptions, however, as to what constitutes terrorism are bound to differ. India, for instance, has frequently accused Pakistan of aiding and abetting Sikh "terrorists" and put much of the blame for its own mishandling of the issue at Pakistan's door. The latter, for its part, has watched the Indian troops deployment in Sri Lanka, in the wake of what appears to be a singularly unequal accord, with growing concern. In what was a clear allusion to India's role in encouraging Sri Lanka's Tamil guerrillas, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo declared in his speech at the final session of the conference "we must not permit the abuse of the territory of our respected states as sanctuary for launching platforms by criminals to perpetrate heinous acts in other states". It is very possible then that the convention will be used more as a means for getting at each other rather than for the enhancement of mutual security.

As for the South Asian food reserve, it is unfortunately the case that practically all the member states are food deficient even in the absence of natural disasters or food reserve in some of the member countries reflects the surplus food stocks built up due to lack of purchasing power among large deprived sections of the population rather than what is left over after the actual food requirements of the people have been met. Neither of the two instruments, therefore, promise much in terms of qualitatively improving the level of cooperation among the SAARC members in the prevailing atmosphere of uncertainly and distrust, particularly among the two members whose relationship is central to the fortunes of the organisation i.e., Pakistan and India.

Perhaps, nothing as clearly underscores the continuing polarisation between the two as their respective positions on the nuclear issue. Speaking at the inaugural session of the conference, Pakistan's Prime Minister called for a joint renunciation of the nuclear option by the SAARC member states advocating that "we should go further and consider a regional agreement placing a comprehensive ban on nuclear explosions tests". This attempt at tackling the issue in a regional context was, however, ignored in the declaration which, in line with India's views on the subject focuses on the less immediate global level and incorporates the members' resolve "to support every effort to conclude a treaty prohibiting vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons". Again, no real progress was made at the conference with regard to improving trade among the member countries, promoting joint investment ventures and other measures in the crucial area of economic cooperation.

It may well be that the real value of SAARC at present lies in its providing a forum for the leaders of the countries of South Asia to meet, exchange ideas and, hopefully, better understand each other's point of view.

Sri Lanka

Elections Promised After 'Normalcy' Returns

BK231131 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] The prime minister has said that an opportunity will be provided to the people to participate in elections and to express their opinion immediately after normalcy is restored in the country. He said that the new local administrations would commence operations from the 1st of January until elections are held.

Addressing a meeting of the UNP [United National Party Executive] [Committee] of Colombo central at Sucharita Hall in Colombo yesterday, Mr Premadasa said that the government could not permit the disruption of the public services. The prime minister referring to the JVP [Janatha Vimukti Permuna, People's Liberation Front] recalled the recent statement by the president that he was prepared to revoke proscription on the party if it renounces violence. The prime minister observed that the life has been made insecure by the fear of political assassinations today and added that no room will be allowed, however, to disrupt the government's activities. The district minister for Kalutura, (Indradas Vidhyaratna), and the joint secretary of the Colombo Central UNP Executive Committee, P.N. Sangadasa, were also present on the occasion.

LTTE's Prabhakaran To Meet Indian Leaders

BK211736 Hong Kong AFP in English 1726 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Madras, India, Nov 21 (AFP)—Sri Lankan Tamil rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran is likely to hold talks with the government in India, possibly arriving Sunday, sources here said Saturday. Mr. Prabhakaran is said to have responded positively to an invitation from M.G. Ramachandran, chief minister of Tamil Nadu State, of which Madras is the capital. The invitation was sent after New Delhi's unilateral declaration of a current 48-hour ceasefire by its peace-keeping force in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Ramachandran had prevailed upon Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to declare the ceasefire after repeated requests from Mr. Prabhakaran's group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a source in the chief minister's All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) Party said.

Mr. Prabhakaran is expected to be flown here by the Indian Air Force before the expiry of the ceasefire, the source said. The guerrilla chief, who was expected to be airlifted from Palaly in northern Sri Lanka's Jaffna Peninsula, would first hold talks with Mr. Ramachandran, the source said. He would then go to New Delhi to meet Mr. Gandhi for "ironing out differences" on the implementation of the July 29 Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord aimed at ending the Tamil separatist conflict and under which the Indian force was established, the source added.

Mr. Ramachandran said in a statement here that the situation was now conducive for the parties concerned to hold talks and make an all-out effort. The LTTE should fully co-operate with New Delhi in these efforts, said Mr. Ramachandran, who played a key role in bringing about pre-accord talks between Indian authorities and the LTTE.

In a statement circulated by the LTTE here, Mr. Prabhakaran said the group was prepared to surrender its weapons, as specified in the accord, if New Delhi undertook to protect Tamils in Sri Lanka and resolve the ethnic problem to their satisfaction. Indications here Saturday were that Mr. Prabhakaran might arrive in Madras Sunday. He consulted his area commanders in the northern Sri Lankan town of Vavuniya Saturday in the light of the unilateral truce ordered by New Delhi, LTTE sources here said.

Mr. Prabhakran said in the statement: "It is our stand that the agreement has several shortcomings and that it will not satisfy the political aspirations of the Tamil people.

"It is our right to express our views on the agreement. Still we have pledged to co-operate with India if it can ensure that the agreement will protect the interest of our people."

The Eelam Liberation Organisation of Students, a pro-Marxist body known to be an ally of the LTTE, issued a statement here Saturday appealing to all Tamil militant groups to accept the ceasefire.

Reportage on IPKF-LTTE Operations

Cease-Fire Said Holding

BK210915 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0809 GMT 21 Nov 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 21 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The 48-hour cease-fire announced by India and which came into effect at 0700 hours (local time) in Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern provinces was holding and no incidents have been reported, official sources told *Lanka Puwath*. Official sources said that the Indian Peace Keeping Force [IPKF] was carrying out its normal land and sea patrolling in the north and east. But, there had been no offensive action. According to security reports, the LTTE terrorists had not engaged in any attacks and seemed to be responding to the 48 hour cease-fire.

In a statement in the Indian Lower House of Parliament in New Delhi, Minister of State for External Affairs Natwar Singh said the Indian Government had decided that for 48 hours, commencing from 0700 hours Saturday, 21st November, the IPKF will not open fire on its own initiative. Mr Natwar Singh said it is hoped the LTTE will use the opportunity to hand over their arms and unequivocally support the Indo-Sri Lanka peace agreement in the larger interests of Tamils of Sri Lanka, and do so during the period.

Soldier Kills 2 in Frenzy

BK211405 Hong Kong AFP in English 1355 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Colombo, Nov 21 (AFP)—An Indian soldier went berserk in the northeastern Sri Lankan town of Trincomalee Saturday, killing two civilians and wounding seven, the Indian High Commission said here. The soldier fired indiscriminately at civilians and stores in Trincomalee. The spokesman said the man had been depressed since his brother, also a soldier, died in a clash with Tamil rebels in the northern Jaffna Peninsula. "A non-summary inquiry was held immediately and the man is now under detention," he said. Sri Lankan military officials said the man was due to be examined by a psychiatrist.

The incident occurred barely four hours after the start of a ceasefire in a six-week long drive by Indian peacekeeping troops to disarm Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces. "There was tension immediately after the shooting, but the situation is now under control, with Sri Lankan police strengthening patrols," a Sri Lankan military source said.

LTTE Breaks Cease-Fire

BK220503 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] The Liberation Tigers of the Tamil Eelam opened fire on a peacekeeping patrol in Sri Lanka yesterday despite being aware of an Indian Government's decision not to open fire on its own initiative. An External Affairs [Ministry] spokesman said in New Delhi that the LTTE opened fire on the peacekeeping force from a building at (Saralai) near Chavakachcheri in Jaffna. The spokesman said the PKF was forced to return the fire. The LTTE men left behind a wounded member of the group while fleeing from the building. The PKF recovered a 2-inch mortar and a rifle from the place.

Our correspondent Sunderam Subramaniam reports from Jaffna that for 2 and 1/2 months direct bus services between Colombo and Jaffna were operated. The people told our correspondent that they welcome the Indian Government's [cease-fire] decision. They hope that this gesture will bring lasting peace to Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Operations Begin Against LTTE

BK231617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] The peacekeeping force resumed its operations in Sri Lanka this morning to recover LTTE arms and ammunition after a gap of 48 hours. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that this is being done in the absence of any positive response to the offer made by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, in Parliament on Friday. He regretted that the LTTE is now insisting on a number of unacceptable conditions prior to laying down arms.

The spokesman said that during the 48-hour period when the PKF was ordered not to fire on its own, the LTTE has been threatening to kill people assisting and supporting the PKF. The LTTE had also put up posters at various places saying that the Indian Red Cross should stop functioning and government offices and banks should not open. The LTTE killed two persons in Jaffna to intimidate the population and prevent their cooperation with the peacekeeping force.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said there is no question of any discussion with the LTTE under conditions other than those announced by Mr Natwar Singh in Parliament. He said the PKF has established a cell to trace missing persons. Some LTTE cadres captured by the PKF have asked assistance for their studies. Arrangement for their study and examination are being made, he said.

Meanwhile, curfew relaxation in Jaffna has been extended from 8 to 12 hours. In Chunakkam also shops are open and local policemen have reported for duty. Air taxi services between Palaly and Colombo have been resumed.

A Defense Ministry press release says 262 PKF personnel have been killed and 927 wounded during the operations in Sri Lanka so far. The release also says over 40 percent of the wounded have been discharged from hospitals. It referred to the highly exaggerated casualty figures published in a section of the press and said such reports cause great concern and mental agony to the families of those serving in the PKF.

Communist Parties Support Peace Accord

BK231113 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] The two Communist Parties of India and Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan Communist Party have appealed to all progressive forces in India and Sri Lanka to support the peace accord signed on July 29, 1987 and to ensure its speedy implementation. [sentence as heard]

The joint statement the Communist Party of India-Marxist and the Communist Party of Sri Lanka says that this accord will help to strengthen still further the age-old ties between India and Sri Lanka. It will help to advance the movement for peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region, especially in the Indian subcontinent, toward strengthening the position of nonalignment in the region. They have called on all progressive forces to do all they can to develop the movements in support of this accord and to ensure its speedy implementation.

Gandhi Attacker Gets 6-Year Jail Term

BK210640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] A Sri Lankan military court has sentenced to 6 years' imprisonment the naval rating who attacked the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, during his visit to Colombo in July. The three-member court-martial body has convicted him of the charge of attempted culpable homicide.

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